Afghanistan Libre is an NGO founded in 1996 by Chékéba Hachemi in response to the deterioration of women's rights under the Taliban regime.

The priority objectives of Afghanistan Libre are to facilitate girls' and women's equal access to education, health care, and vocational training in Afghanistan to ultimately facilitate their socioeconomic independence.

We focus our efforts on remote rural areas that receive little assistance, areas where an estimated 75% of Afghan women live, and where they struggle the most to access essential services.

Afghanistan Libre has reached more than 300,000 beneficiaries since 1996.
OUR VISION

Education is at the core of our vision and we are firm in our belief that quality education, especially for girls, is fundamental to the development of any society. When women are educated, they gain power and can actively participate in the political, economic and social development of their countries.

Afghanistan Libre’s approach aims to initiate a virtuous cycle of good practices designed to be replicated at the national level. This is why the organization has been working since its creation in synergy with local authorities and the Afghan government. For example, as early as 2001, we introduced sport for girls as a subject in public schools, and it has since been integrated into the official curriculum of Afghan National Education.

OUR ROOTS

All of Afghanistan Libre’s actions are based on a pragmatic vision of development, and the projects implemented respond to local demands, strengthen the skills of local actors, and invite sustainable and long-lasting engagement.

Our field team is comprised entirely of Afghan nationals and has been present for over 20 years in our areas of intervention. This presence allows us a strong anchorage within our target communities, and to benefit from the support of the Shuras, i.e. traditional village councils, and the local authorities for all of our programs. Our community based approach assures the acceptance and smooth running of all our projects.
The year 2019 was marked by the allure of "peace negotiations" between the United States and the Taliban. By excluding Afghans, especially Afghan women, from these talks, the United States, in complicit agreement with the international community (whose silence speaks volumes), took the risk of leaving Afghanistan once again in the hands of terrorists and creating "Terroristan".

Today, Afghanistan is reaching a critical point. Leaving Afghanistan vulnerable once again to Taliban rule means wiping out 20 years of progress for the rights of Afghan women.

We have also seen great progress: in 2019, Afghanistan Libre has, among other things, trained 630 high school girls in IT and coding through our Digital Classes. Two of our students have been accepted in the prestigious Kabul University, and more than 2000 women have gained access to mental health care through Afghanistan Libre. All of this would have been unthinkable and impossible 20 years ago.

To leave the Afghan people in the hands of terrorists through apathy and cowardice is to abandon the girls and women who fight every day just to exist, and denies their thirst for learning and autonomy.

By its silence, the international community is making itself an accomplice. This indifference is deadly, and for me, a marked failure to help people in great danger.

This is why, true to its origins, Afghanistan Libre will continue to challenge and fight, at its own level, to amplify the voices of Afghan women.

Chékéba Hachemi
OUR TEAM

The headquarters of Afghanistan Libre is located in Paris. The Parisian team, in direct communication with the field team in Kabul, is in charge of project design, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, communication, and partner relations. The field team is in charge of project implementation and is comprised entirely of Afghan nationals. With 24 years of experience in its areas of intervention, Afghanistan Libre benefits from an overwhelming acceptance of its projects by the local communities and authorities.

PARIS
Coordination
Fundraising
Communication

KABUL
A team comprised entirely of Afghan nationals. Coordination and implementation of projects. Daily line of contact with communities.

Nazim
Director

Omran
Administrative and Financial Director

Victoria
Project Manager

Nasim
Project Manager

Najia
Project Manager

Jalil
Programme Assistant

Marie
Director

Louise
Project Manager

Afghanistan Libre also manages the staff of our preschools and Women’s Centers, as well as all other personnel necessary for the smooth running of our projects. The team is composed of 30 employees and several contract workers.
Afghanistan Libre has developed a global approach composed of small-scale qualitative programmes adapted to the Afghan context. We support our beneficiaries from birth to adulthood. Education is at the center of our actions. We started by creating and supporting schools for girls, then we developed preschools for early childhood, and finally Women’s Centers for adult women.

9000

students reached, including 5,500 girls in 7 public schools supported by Afghanistan Libre.

126

young children welcomed in 5 preschools.

2300

women supported in 4 Women’s Centers.

where girls' education is advancing, democracy is progressing

/CHÉKÉBA HACHEMI/

OUR WORK

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TWO REGIONS OF INTERVENTION

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS:

School principles/leadership, local authorities and communities, and national authorities, including:

- The Ministry of Education
- The Ministry of Women’s Affairs
- The Ministry of Economic Affairs
THE TWO SECTORS OF AFGHANISTAN LIBRE:

Afghanistan Libre works to improve girls' education and empower women in rural Afghanistan. To achieve this goal, our programs are divided into two sectors: the Education Sector and the Women's Sector.

EDUCATION SECTOR:

We have created and are implementing an integrated educational program that accompanies beneficiaries from early childhood to adulthood, including:

- Improvement of learning conditions (construction of classrooms, recreational halls, installing solar panels, etc.)
- The creation and support of preschools
- Preparing high school girls for the university entrance exam (Kankor)
- Professional training in digital professions via Digital Classes
- Self-training for teachers
- Assistance in obtaining national identity papers (the Tazkira)
- The distribution of solar lamps

WOMEN'S SECTOR:

Our projects offer socio-community support to women, encourage their independence and promote their access to health within our Women's Centers, which include:

- Basic health and hygiene education
- Sexual and reproductive health awareness
- Midwife consultations
- Psychosocial support
- Literacy courses
- Training in an income-generating activity: sewing

The approach of all of Afghanistan Libre's programming is integrated and holistic, supporting girls throughout their development.
EDUCATION SECTOR
Achievement of Sustainable Development Objective 4:

Ensure equal access to quality education for all and promote opportunities for lifelong learning.

Our projects are fully in line with the achievement of SDO 4 and facilitate the following:

- Promote access to quality primary and secondary education provided by qualified teachers (MDG Target 4.1).
- Support preschools to provide appropriate early childhood education (Target 4.2).
- Encourage access to university education and the development of vocational skills through preparation for the Kankor and Digital Classes (Targets 4.3 and 4.4).
- Promote girls’ education to reduce gender disparities (Target 4.5).
PRESCHOOLS, FOSTERING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Young beneficiaries of our preschools
**OBJECTIVE**

To improve children's readiness to learn while allowing school teachers and working women to have childcare for their children.

**BENEFICIARIES**

Young children
Parent teachers and village workers
Children benefiting from better quality education

**BARRIERS TO OVERCOME**

In Afghanistan, school does not start until the age of six and there are no facilities for early childhood education in rural areas. However, early learning activities and initial education are essential for child development and allow for better integration into the school system.

Moreover, women represent only 21% of the working population and the lack of childcare facilities is an additional obstacle to women's already fragile access to employment and empowerment in Afghanistan. Without childcare, many working women are unable to work as teachers.

It also has negative repercussions on the quality of education and the enrolment of high school girls. It is most often female students who are most at risk of dropping out of the school system because in addition to the persistence of early marriages, many families still refuse to allow their daughters to attend classes taught by men.

**OUR RESPONSE**

Afghanistan Libre has created and currently manages 5 preschools. The children benefit from a balanced meal, they participate in educational activities, and their health is monitored by the early childhood educators who care for them. The educators receive regular training, the last of which took place in July 2019.

In April 2019, a fifth preschool was opened at the Khoja Lakan school supported by Afghanistan Libre.

In 2019, 126 children were taken care of in our 5 preschools and 57 female teachers were able to drop their children off at one of the centers and go to work, thus contributing to the improvement of the overall level of education in schools.

**FINANCIAL PARTNERS**

Fondation ENGIE
Fondation Brageac
IMPROVING LEARNING CONDITIONS

Keraman school under construction with the support of Afghanistan Libre
In Afghanistan, 60% of the 3.7 million out-of-school children are girls. This figure rises to 85% in rural areas. The lack of, or dilapidation of school infrastructure is a problem that hinders the schooling of many girls. For example, they are forced to study in tents or in rundown classrooms.

This is the case of Keraman, a public school in Panjshir province, which Afghanistan Libre has been supporting since its construction in 2008. Since then, the number of students has continued to increase and in 2018, 250 students were registered. The 4 classrooms built were no longer sufficient to accommodate all the students and sixty girls were taught in tents or directly in the courtyard due to the lack of permanent classrooms. They were thus exposed to difficult conditions in a country where winters and summers are extremely harsh.

We have built and fitted 4 classrooms, a library and a playground that also serves as a sports field. This project was completed in November 2019.

Thanks to these developments, the girls benefit from optimized learning conditions. They also have access to new learning materials in the library and can use the books for their homework. Finally, playing sports helps improve their development and well-being, and promotes self-confidence and relieves stress. They can therefore approach their schooling with greater peace of mind.

Agence des Micro Projets
CDC Développement Solidaire
La Voix de l’Enfant - Demain Sézanne

**OBJECTIVE**

To improve learning conditions through the construction of adequate school infrastructure.

**BARRIERS TO OVERCOME**

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**BÉNÉFICIAIRES**

Les filles scolarisées à l’école de Keraman (province du Panjshir)

**NOTRE RÉPONSE**

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**FINANCIAL PARTNERS**

Agence des Micro Projets
CDC Développement Solidaire
La Voix de l’Enfant - Demain Sézanne
DIGITAL CLASSES: PREPARING GIRLS FOR THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES

Beneficiaries of our digital classes.
OBJECTIVE

To expand the academic and professional opportunities for Afghan high school girls through digital vocational training (Digital Classes).

BENEFICIARIES

High school students grade 9 to 11 (from 15 to 17 years of age.)

BARRIERS TO OVERCOME

The Afghan population is young (63% of the population is under 25 years old), the youth unemployment rate is high (31%). This statistic has a particular impact on women. It is not enough to support girls’ education; they must be offered prospects for the future.

The digital sector is a promising sector in Afghanistan. To be competitive in this labour market, computer and English language skills are essential. The Afghan national curriculum includes English and computer literacy courses, but are often sacrificed due to a lack of qualified teachers and equipment. 98% of our beneficiaries had never received hands-on computer training before this project and only 12.5% had attended English classes.

OUR RESPONSE

The Digital Classes represent the professionalizing part of our integrated educational path.

We are creating a 3-year professional digital training course which also provides students with a computer. The course is set up as follows:

Grade 9: A general introduction to computers and mastery of basic office automation software

Grades 10 and 11: Learning and mastering coding

A fifth Digital Classroom was opened in September 2019 at Abdullah Bin Omer’s school; it was attended by 216 female students.

In 2019, 630 girls benefited from this project which has numerous positive effects: on average, the rate of progression between the pre-training test and the post-training test is +42% in computer science and +36% in English. In addition, the Digital Classes have encouraged female students to continue their studies. 75% of our beneficiaries wish to continue studying English or computer science at university.

This project won the 2019 International Prize of the Fondation la France S’engage, which rewarded projects focusing on "Women, Entrepreneurship and the Digital".

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Fondation ENGIE
Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires Étrangères
Fondation La France s’engage
UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM PREPARATION (KANKOR) AND SELF-LEARNING COURSES FOR TEACHERS

Girls preparing for the national University entrance exam (Kankor)
Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, great progress has been made in the field of education. The number of students has risen from 1 million to 9 million in 2016. Afghanistan is also one of the youngest countries in the world with more than 35% of its population being school-aged. However, education is still a major challenge: 3.7 million children are out of school, 60% of whom are girls. This figure rises to 85% in rural areas.

These strong gender inequalities increase in secondary school. 80% of girls are enrolled in primary school compared to 100% of boys. Shockingly, only 28% of girls are enrolled in high school. Secondary education statistically increases girls’ salaries up to 25% in adulthood (World Bank) and dramatically reduces the number of marriages before the age of 18 (36% of Afghan women).

In addition to insecurity and lack of school infrastructure, one of the main factors hindering girls’ schooling is the lack of qualified female teachers (only 35% of teachers are women).

**OBJECTIVE**
To strengthen the quality of girls’ education through preparation for the Kankor (the national university entrance exam) and through developing the skills of female teachers through a system of self-study.

**BENEFICIARIES**
Enrolled girls, especially grade 12 high school girls

**BARRIÈRES À FRANCHIR**

Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, great progress has been made in the field of education. The number of students has risen from 1 million to 9 million in 2016. Afghanistan is also one of the youngest countries in the world with more than 35% of its population being school-aged. However, education is still a major challenge: 3.7 million children are out of school, 60% of whom are girls. This figure rises to 85% in rural areas.

In addition to insecurity and lack of school infrastructure, one of the main factors hindering girls’ schooling is the lack of qualified female teachers (only 35% of teachers are women).
1 - PREPARING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS (KANKOR)

The objective of this project is to promote young girls’ access to University through preparing them for Kankor.

This preparatory course, accessible to girls of grade 12, offers additional courses in scientific subjects (chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics), subjects with the highest weight on the Kankor. This national exam is the sole way for girls to access higher education. Teachers from Kabul provide this training, which includes intensive 15-day sessions for each subject.

The results have been incredibly positive: in 2019, 250 high school girls participated in the preparatory course. By comparing the test results before and after the course, their passing rates rose from 32% to 71%.

In addition, 84% of grade 11 girls who benefited from the Digital Classes in 2018, participated in the preparation for Kankor in 2019, which shows their desire to continue their studies and succeed in their professional careers.

2 - CAPACITY BUILDING OF FEMALE TEACHERS:

The aim of this project is to offer self-training to female teachers in rural areas to ultimately raise the general quality of schooling and reduce the high school dropout rate of girls.

Female teachers have access to a room equipped with a TV set as well as DVDs and teaching materials created by the Afghan Ministry of Education. This system allows them to train continuously and at their own pace.

In 2019, 30 female teachers benefited from the self-training, and 90% of the beneficiaries were satisfied.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Fondation Brageac
Fondation ELLE
Solidarité Afghanistan Tournaïsis
Beneficiaries pose with their Tazkira, the official national identification card of Afghanistan, which they obtained with the help of Afghanistan Libre’s social workers.
**OBJECTIVE**

To ensure girls have legal identification that guarantees their right to access secondary education, and to improve studying conditions at home and safety on the way home from school in the evenings.

**BENEFICIARIES**

Children without a national identity card, the majority of which are girls.

**BARRIERS TO OVERCOME**

Girls' education now seems to be generally accepted in primary school, however girl's access to secondary education remains very limited and is often reserved for privileged families.

From high school onwards, the Tazkira, the official Afghan identity card, is required for school enrolment. It is indispensable for taking national exams, including the Kankor.

However, only 20% of Afghan women have their Tazkira. The vast majority of girls have no legal identity: they thus cannot continue their education and often become victims of forced and early marriages, which affect 70% and 36% of Afghan women respectively.

**OUR RESPONSE**

The Afghanistan Libre team recruits social workers who educate parents to the importance of doing the administrative procedures so that their children have legal identification.

Accompanied with a photographer and in the presence of local authorities, the social workers then go to schools and take the necessary information required to obtain Tazkira. Solar lamps are then distributed to older girls so that they can light their way to school for safety and do their homework in the evening.

In 2019, 2,000 students received their Tazkira. Our team in Kabul received the 2500 lamps in December 2019 (after delays at the airport) and was scheduled to distribute them after the winter holidays. However, due to the coronavirus crises, the schools did not reopen at the end of March as planned.

**FINANCIAL PARTNERS**

La Voix de l’Enfant
WOMEN'S SECTOR
“HEALTH IS A COMPLETE STATE OF PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING, AND NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF DISEASE OR INFIRMITY.”

/DEFINITION FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION/
OBJECTIF
To empower Afghan women.

BENEFICIARIES
Mothers, teachers, students and women from the center's surrounding villages, their children, their families and the community at large.

BARRIERS TO OVERCOME
Afghanistan is one of the worst countries on earth for a woman to live, in particular because of the alarming rates of maternal and child health and the daily violence suffered by women.

Studies show that 80% of women are illiterate and 90% of women do not wash their hands regularly, a simple but very effective gesture to prevent diarrhoea, the second cause of mortality among children under 5 years of age in Afghanistan (WHO, 2013). In rural areas, 4 out of 5 women have never heard of family planning, and 95% of women do not use contraception, despite the harmful health effects of repeated pregnancies.

According to the latest Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (2016-2017), only 16% of women receive four antenatal check-ups (the number recommended by WHO for normal pregnancies). Additionally, in a very traditional country, women face other gender-specific obstacles, including a shortage of qualified female medical staff.

Further, in a country that has been in conflict for 40 years, violence is omnipresent in Afghanistan. Women continue to be the most affected as they are often subjected to gender-specific violence. For many women, it begins in childhood and continues throughout the entirety of their lives. 87% of Afghan women reported experiencing at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence or were forced into marriage during their lifetime.

Finally, the right to work for women is poorly recognized and little encouraged. According to the International Labour Organization, only 21% of the Afghan working population was made up of women in 2017 (compared to 51% in France and more than 24% in Pakistan).

OUR RESPONSE
Afghanistan Libre has created 4 Women's Centers which bring together different programs aimed at women's empowerment. These programs follow an integrated approach and offer socio-community support to women around 3 axes: prevention, access to care, and economic empowerment through vocational training. The Women's Centers are a space where women can exchange, learn and have access to care in complete safety.

According to Mohammed Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, reparation for vulnerable women victims of violence is only complete if it includes socio-economic reparation.

The dimensions of psychological and economic support offered in the Women's Centers are therefore intertwined, the success of one reinforcing the chances of success of the other, and vice versa.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS
OHCHR
Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici
IVORY FOUNDATION
Fondation Les Ailes
OBJECTIVE

To improve women's basic hygiene and physical and sexual health, and to facilitate the management of serious health problems.

BENEFICIARIES

86 female beneficiaries of education sessions on basic health and hygiene.

355 female students aged 14 to 18 benefited from health education and sexual and reproductive health sessions

600 women benefited from midwife consultations and awareness sessions

THE PROJECT

In each Women's Center, a qualified health educator welcomed 86 women three times a week. The health and basic hygiene education sessions enable these women to expand their knowledge of basic hygiene and sexual and reproductive health, and to discuss topics such as personal hygiene, family planning, water and sanitation, HIV, etc.

The pedagogical plan used as a framework for the health educators was developed in conjunction with representatives of the Ministry of Health, but is also based on requests from women participating in the sessions.

It includes family planning, pregnancy and child nutrition, among other topics.

The training courses include exercises, discussion groups and role-playing games adapted to an audience that can neither read nor write. The sessions are also an opportunity for women to create social links, to find immediate help, but also to achieve a first degree of empowerment. Women acquire necessary skills and feel more capable of taking care of themselves and their families.

During the rest of the week, the health educators also provide access to students from nearby schools, who can come and discuss topics such as their first menstrual period discreetly.

Once a month, our midwife also provides an awareness session on more specific topics such as the importance of pre- and post-natal follow-up, menstruation, breastfeeding, certain infections (vaginitis, cystitis, etc.), etc. These sessions are open to all women and not exclusively to regular beneficiaries.

Parallel to the health education sessions, first aid kits (1 per house), hygiene (172) and winter (86) kits were distributed to the beneficiaries.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

OHCHR
IVORY FOUNDATION
Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici
In order to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care, including pre- and post-natal care, Afghanistan Libre is setting up a programme of midwife consultations within the Women’s Centers. Once a month, a qualified and equipped midwife holds sessions in each center.

The consultation days are organized around an initial collective awareness session on specific problems of the beneficiaries (for example anaemia during pregnancy), then the women are welcomed in private consultations. This format makes it possible to initiate a follow-up of pregnant women, and to refer those who need it to adapted care centres.

This programme has been a great success: the midwife has dealt with many problems sometimes far removed from the field of gynaecology-obstetrics. As quality health care offer is very limited in Afghanistan, the midwife has been in high-demand.

In particular, she has treated many cases of anaemia, vaginitis, cystitis, high blood pressure, but also some more serious cases such as pelvic inflammatory disease and oligoamnionitis (when the quantity of amniotic fluid is abnormally low compared to the term of the pregnancy).

**OBJECTIF**

Contribute to improving family health in rural Afghanistan through sexual and reproductive health awareness, access to midwifery care and pregnancy monitoring.

**BENEFICIARIES**

684 women benefited from midwife consultations.

79 pregnant women benefited from pregnancy monitoring.

41 women requiring special care were referred to clinics.

7 infants and 13 children also benefited from consultations.

**FINANCIAL PARTNERS**

IVORY FOUNDATION

**THE PROJECT**

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79 pregnant women benefited from pregnancy monitoring.

41 women requiring special care were referred to clinics.

7 infants and 13 children also benefited from consultations.

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

**MIDWIFE CONSULTATIONS**

**THE PROJECT**

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OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the psychological and social well-being of female victims of social violence

BENEFICIARIES

2236 girls and women, including 1145 girls aged 6 to 17 and 1210 women aged 18 to 60+.
Group therapy sessions: 556 girls and women
Individual therapy sessions: 658 girls and women
184 men were educated

THE PROJECT

In a country that has been in conflict for 40 years, violence is pervasive in Afghanistan. Women remain the most affected and are subjected to gender-specific violence. Social violence against women - be it domestic violence, murder, beatings, mutilation, early marriage, marriage of girls to resolve conflicts (baad) - remains a daily reality throughout Afghanistan, despite the government's efforts to criminalize these practices.

For many women, this violence begins in childhood and continues throughout their lives. According to the latest report of the United Nations Population Fund, studies on domestic violence in Afghanistan revealed that one in three girls who are victims of forced (58% of women) or early (35% are under 18, 9% are under 15 - UNICEF 2017) marriage have been sexually abused, and 62.5% have been physically abused. In addition, approximately 87% of women reported having experienced at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence or forced marriage during their lifetime. Women's vulnerability is compounded by the fact that there are very few places where they can express themselves freely and safely.

Within the Women's Centers and schools supported by Afghanistan Libre, two psych-social counsellors provide one day of consultations per week in each village. The days are divided between awareness sessions on themes such as the different forms of social violence and how to fight against it, early and/or forced marriage, Baad (exchange and marriage of girls to resolve conflict), mental health, depression, etc] group therapy sessions and individual sessions.

Potential beneficiaries are identified by health educators, social workers and psychosocial counsellors.
Consultations are open to all and are on a voluntary basis.

In October 2019, we hired a psychosocial counsellor for a trial period of one month in order to be able to sensitize men and trigger sustainable behavioural change in the communities. The counsellor conducted 8 awareness-building sessions with men from villages and members of the Shuras where we had observed increased violence against women. Beneficiaries were educated on the different types of violence against women and the consequences of this, the problems of early/forced marriages but also the importance of allowing women to attend the psychosocial support sessions.

The original impact of this project was multiplied tenfold by the addition of awareness sessions to reach a younger (female students) and wider audience. The awareness-raising sessions have been opened to young girls in schools in order to decrease risks and to combat early and forced marriages in particular. Thus, during the first 3 months of project implementation, we focused on raising awareness among young girls. We chose this approach because young girls are also an effective channel for reaching mothers and raising awareness of the psychosocial support programme.

In addition, hiring a psychosocial counsellor has helped to raise awareness among men and greatly multiplied the impact of the project. Hiring a professional with strong scientific methodology and therefore more legitimate in the eyes of the target population has led to positive results. With a qualified male psychosocial counsellor, our actions are more comprehensive: raising awareness among men to better support women and initiate long-term change.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

OHCHR
Foundation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici
VOCATIONAL TRAINING: LITERACY

OBJECTIVE

To contribute to women's empowerment through literacy.

BENEFICIARIES

86 female beneficiaries of health education sessions

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici
OHCHR

THE PROJECT

In Afghanistan, 8 out of 10 women are illiterate. Literacy is the essential first step towards women's empowerment. With literacy, they can develop their talents and skills and build or strengthen their social and economic independence.

To achieve this goal, three times a week, beneficiaries of basic health training also attend a one-hour literacy class. This course has been developed using materials provided by the Afghan Ministry of Education. At the end of the year, they are able to count, read and write.
Women hold their certificates after completing their vocational training in a Free Afghanistan Women’s Center.
THE PROJECT

Vocational training in sewing has been set up with the goal of development of income-generating activities. In March 2019, Afghanistan Libre created 4 sewing training classes, each welcoming 25 vulnerable women 5 days a week for 9 months. The month of March was devoted to the creation of the centres and the training started in April.

The technical training in sewing took place under the supervision of 4 sewing trainers with 4 hours of classes per day. This training combined two types of learning: the first focused on the management of an income-generating activity such as sewing (learning sewing techniques and garment design); the second focused on the micro-management of a business.

Throughout the training, the micro-management component was provided by the sewing trainers and social workers.

Moreover, with the goal of creating of a clothing production cooperative in 2020 by request of the beneficiaries, we implemented a business and marketing entrepreneurial seminar in each class for 3 days at the end of October 2019. This seminar was provided by a specialized external speaker from Kabul.

The results of this programme are very encouraging: out of the 100 women initially enrolled, 76 completed the training and obtained their diploma at the end of the course. The attrition rate of the beneficiaries is therefore only 24%. This is due largely to security problems (distance to reach the centres) or by the refusal of families after several sessions.

By December 2019, 70% of the female beneficiaries started an income-generating activity. Among these women, 43% said they earned enough to meet their primary expenses (payment of electricity bills, purchase of mobile phone cards, purchase of sanitary towels, etc.): this is a great first step towards their economic empowerment and independence.

OBJECTIVE

Ensure an income-generating activity for female victims of social violence.

BENEFICIARIES

100 women (25 per class) benefited from sewing/micro-entrepreneurship training.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici

OHCHR
Throughout the year, Chékéba Hachemi, President and Founder of Afghanistan Libre, has appeared in the media to denounce the "negotiations" between the United States government and the Taliban. She was interviewed for La Tribune de Genève, LCP, France 24, France Culture, Luxemburger Wort, etc. to question and denounce the complacency of the international community and the non-negotiation between the Taliban and the Americans, but also to warn of the birth of a "Terroristan".
Chékéba Hachemi, President and Founder, helped H.R.H. Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg to organize the international forum Stand, Speak, RiseUp! (which took place on 26 and 27 March in Luxembourg) to end sexual violence in fragile environments (including rape as a weapon of war).

This forum brought together for the first time survivors, experts, and international activists such as the Nobels Nadia Murad Awards, Dr Denis Mukwege and Muhammad Yunus.

In addition to contributing to the organization of this forum, Chékéba Hachemi also spoke at the Workshop "Developing finance and technology for the benefit of victims" alongside Professor Muhammad Yunus.

In September 2019, H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and Chékéba Hachemi also set up the association Stand Speak RiseUp! together to continue the movement. Chékéba Hachemi is the treasurer.
On March 22, 2019, the traditional biennial charity concert of Solidarité Afghanistan Tournaisis (our partner in Belgium) took place. The funds raised were donated to our project to support high school girls preparing for the university entrance exam (the Kankor).

The whole team of Afghanistan Libre warmly thanks the SAT volunteers, the musicians (Des bruits et du vent/Outsiders) who animated the evening with brilliance, and all our Belgian friends!
In April 2019, I went to Afghanistan to meet my dear Afghan colleagues with whom we had been exchanging at a distance for 2 years and to finally see the different projects we are carrying out on the ground.

I understood that what we are doing is educating future generations and future mothers, who will then themselves raise their sons and daughters and teach them peace and tolerance in a country where you don’t hear about others, where you know nothing about other religions, because you simply have time for nothing else but survival.

As in many countries, religion becomes the conservative leaven of tradition, which can be difficult for us to grasp. Before being a religiously radical country, Afghanistan is above all a conservative and poor country. The solutions we are proposing to promote the education and emancipation of Afghan girls and women are perfectly suited to this context.

The determination of our team and our beneficiaries is extremely inspiring and motivating to continue the fight despite a context that unfortunately, is only getting worse.
Chêkéba Hachemi at the presentation of the 2019 International Prize from la Fondation la France s’engage
In April, Chékéba Hachemi, President and Founder, received the 2019 International Prize of the Foundation La France s’engage awarded by the former President of the Republic Mr François Hollande.

Chaired by Mr. Hollande, the Foundation rewarded this year projects oriented around “Women, the Digital and Entrepreneurship”. Our project of Digital Classes: professional digital training offering courses in computer science, coding and English for high school girls was thus honoured.

Our prize and our project were also honoured in the Télématin programme of 07/05/2019.
Nazim, director of the field team, at the Keraman school construction site.
AFGHANISTAN'S FIELD TEAM HONOURED BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

On the occasion of Afghanistan’s centennial anniversary of independence, the Afghanistan Libre field team was honoured by the Kabul Province Education Department for its work in favour of girls’ education. Congratulations to our field team who fights every day to implement our projects!

Top left: Najia Jalal, project manager of the Women’s sector receives a certificate of recognition.

Top right: Nazim Akrami, country director receives a certificate of recognition from the Afghan state.

Bottom: Najia Jalal, project manager of the Women’s sector poses with young beneficiaries.
At the foot of the Aspen Mountains in Colorado, in the western United States, the Gonzo Gallery made it possible to organize two charity evenings to benefit Afghanistan Libre. The exhibition honored the work in Afghanistan of two world-renowned photojournalists: Véronique de Viguerie (winner of the 2009 World Press Photo Award) and Sergey Ponomarev (co-winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize).

The photo exhibition as well as the presentation of Afghanistan Libre’s projects and missions by Director Marie Carpentier helped raise awareness of our cause and the plight of Afghan women. A big thank you to all our American donors!

Right: (c) Gonzo Gallery, a photo from the exhibition.
On November 5, Najia Jalal, our project manager of the Women’s Sector and former beneficiary of Afghanistan Libre, was interviewed on Lemar TV’s Lemar Mokham program. This program, which is very popular in Afghanistan (with an audience of 6 million viewers), gave Najia the opportunity to highlight the history of Afghanistan Libre and its fight on behalf of Afghan women!
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS
IN FOCUS:

AFGHANISTAN LIBRE IS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACTION SECTOR OF THE GROUPE SOS.

35 years ago, the GROUPE SOS was created with the ambition to fight against exclusion in all its forms. Gradually diversifying its activities, today it responds to the needs of society with 8 sectors of activity: Youth, Employment, Solidarity, Health, Seniors, Culture, Ecological Transition, International Action. With 18,000 employees, 550 establishments and services and a turnover of 950 million, the SOS GROUP is the leading European social enterprise.

Since 2016, Afghanistan Libre has been part of the International Action sector. The Action Internationale sector brings together social enterprises and associations that work with local actors in more than fifty countries, providing support (through volunteering, training and skills development) in the fields of health, disability, environmental protection and access to education for all. Through its international action, the SOS GROUP wishes to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The GROUPE SOS also works in favour of economic development by enabling companies with a social and/or ecological impact to develop within its worldwide network of incubators.
Afghanistan Libre's 2019 annual budget amounted to €278,271 (income). At the end of 2019, the association had a surplus of 514€.

It should be noted that the association's resources come from a variety of sources, with a high proportion of private grants (63%), the second source of funding being private donations (32%) which in particular this year came from a fundraising event that we held in the summer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous donors.
THANK YOU!