



Afghan Australian Development Organisation

ANNUAL REPORT

2008

Statement of purpose

The primary purpose of the Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) is to implement projects that assist in the reconstruction and sustainable development of Afghanistan. AADO also aims to engage the Australian community in the plight of Afghans living within and exiled from Afghanistan and to facilitate the donation of material aid to the people of Afghanistan.

History of AADO

The Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) was established in Australia in 2002 with the aim of providing community development assistance to the people of Afghanistan

The strategic focus of AADOs work in Kabul and rural districts has been in the areas of:

Health, literacy & numeracy education for women
Teacher training
Vocational training
Some building works.

In 2007/08 the committee set out short and long term goals for the organisation. The twelve month period goals were:

1. Focus on creating innovative, practical and training opportunities for Afghan people in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education, which "fill the gap" in the short term.
2. Work with women and girls, particularly in rural communities, to improve their access to education, health care and employment, whilst respecting and acknowledging Afghan culture and traditions.
3. Provide settlement assistance to newly arrived Afghan refugees and immigrants, supporting community development and advocating for the Afghan-Australians in Victoria.

These goals have been achieved as outlined further on in this report.

During 2007/08 a "Learning Centre" was built in Kabul, funded by Dr Salehi. This 4 storey building has rooms for lectures and training, a dining room, kitchen and recreation area, offices for AADO staff and other affiliated organisations, sleeping accommodation, guard accommodation and additional areas which can be utilised for other purposes such as carpentry training. The whole building is surrounded by high walls and is guarded 24 hours per day. Furnishing for the AADO office was paid for by the Australian Embassy in Kabul and furnishing for the training, dining and recreation rooms was paid for by the Portland Foundation.

At the beginning of 2008 the AADO office was established in the building. Dr. Shamim and Dr. Daneshyar were appointed to manage AADOs affairs in Afghanistan and Dr Salehi continues to travel to Afghanistan twice yearly to monitor projects, liaise with various ministries and check up on the affairs of AADO. In late 2008, AADO will open an office in Melbourne and employ a part time assistant to help with writing project proposals, monitoring projects, providing reports to various donors and assisting with the task of AADO becoming an accredited Ausaid NGO as well as applying for DGR status with the Taxation Office. Through this assistance and the incorporation of capacity building, it is anticipated that Dr Salehi will have more time for more speaking and PR engagements as well as liaising with government and other donor organisations. work and also help AADO to grow.

Throughout 2007/08 the committee worked on policy and procedures to help streamline AADOs operation as it is committed to the future of Afghanistan and will continue to strive to provide education and vocational training.

President's Report 2007-2008

This has been an exciting year of growth for the Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO).

In line with our stated aim of furthering education both in the formal and informal sectors - AADO, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education in Kabul, has embarked upon a refresher training program for secondary teachers. It is hoped that this program will be continued to broaden the pool of retrained teachers and strengthen the curriculum in schools.

AADO's village program aimed at women and young people, is now being recognised beyond the project areas, and resulting in requests being received by the staff in Kabul. Our Executive Director, Dr. Nouria Salehi, has continued to visit Afghanistan on a regular basis, and undertakes the monitoring and evaluation of the many projects. Nouria also continues to build relationships with the relevant authorities thus promoting the philosophy and work of AADO.

At home, the work of the committee has also undergone significant change to reflect the growth of the organisation, and to bring the committee structure into line with the expanding program. Accordingly, 'in-house' workshops and brainstorming sessions were held and a strategic plan, incorporating action goals, was produced. To strengthen the work of the committee, an organisational structure was drawn up to include sub-committees that reflected the main work of AADO.

The committee is also embarking on the recruitment of a part-time employee to assist the Executive Director in Melbourne. This is yet another exciting step in the growth of AADO and came about through special funding from Planet Wheeler Foundation and staunch support from the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and the Ecumenical Migration Centre.

The issue of applying for accreditation with AusAid is still under consideration. A meeting with Bob McMullan brought significant encouragement and resulted in an offer from AusAid to assist us with the application. This will be the next important task for AADO's domestic program.

Sadly, during 2008, AADO accepted the resignations from two committee members, Sarina Greco and Loretta Little. Both Sarina and Loretta were with AADO from its inception in 2002 and were significant members contributing to the growth and expansion of the organisation and its program. On behalf of the committee, I sincerely and gratefully

acknowledge the work of Sarina and Loretta and take this opportunity to say they will be very much missed.

The members of the committee, as a whole, again achieved 'wondrous things' and gave freely of their time and energy. It's always amazing that the voluntary capacity of individuals seems able to expand as and when required!

So, AADO finishes the year in a strong and optimistic position in its work towards the rehabilitation of the country and peoples of Afghanistan.

Jose` Simsa
President

Executive Director's Report 2007-2008

I am delighted to report that the Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) activities are growing in the area of education in Afghanistan. Highlights of 2007/2008 included the science teacher training in Kabul and the extension of this teacher training to include Kabul province.

During 2007/2008 we conducted five basic literacy and numeracy courses in five different villages for Afghan rural women. Two of these courses led to women taking up dressing making classes. Another vocational program has been the carpentry workshop for 11 orphans. AADO has trained 150, year 10, 11 and 12, science teachers as well as 23 science teachers from different secondary schools in the Qarabagh area.

AADOs members and friends sponsored 16 disadvantaged orphans in a program which enabled the children to attend school.

My special gratitude to the outgoing committee Members - Sarina Greco, Loretta Little, Neri Adams and Jose Simsa. Their talent, expertise and commitment have nourished the organisation since its establishment in 2002.

We are grateful to all donors for their financial support. Without this support AADO would not be able to continue the projects in capacity building in Afghanistan.

Peace be with you.

Nouria Salehi
Executive Director

Afghan Australian Development Organisation

Income & Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$
REVENUE	
Donated funds	179,593.00
Grants	5,054.00
Other Income	6,012.00
Total Revenue	190,659.00
EXPENSES	
Overseas projects	122,390.00
Community education	000
Fundraising costs	476.00
Administration	1,563.00
Total Expenses	124,430.00
Profit of Revenue over Expenses	66,229.00

No single appeal or other form of fund raising for a designated purpose generated 10% or more of total income for the period under review.

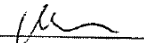
A copy of the audited Financial Report is available from the Treasurer (ADDO) on request.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATION

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATION as of 30 June 2008 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Name of Firm: W.F. Titchener & Co. Pty. Ltd.
Certified Practising Accountant

Name of Committee: 
Mark Donald Crew CPA

Address: Suite 1/84 Johnston Street, Fitzroy 3065.

Dated this 17th day of October 2008

Year in review : Afghanistan

Strategic Focus Area 1

Health education for rural women in Qarabagh district (Donor Cabrini Health)

Issue: Poor health, little knowledge about basic hygiene or nutrition, high illiteracy and extremely high maternal and infant mortality

Activities: 20 women from Qarabagh are being trained in basic literacy, numeracy, health and hygiene, 5 days per week for 3 or 4 hours over a 6 month period.

Outcomes: Women are now able to read and write and therefore can bond more freely with their school going children. The families are eating healthier food, their hygiene is better and this knowledge can be passed on to other women in the village. Awareness of the dangers of infant and maternal mortality have been highlighted and despite a lack of hospitals and female doctors progress is being made in the villages.



Learning how to take blood pressure

Education for women in villages such as Qalai-e-Pahlawan, Qalai Sofian and Qalai-e-Kohna districts (Donor Lonely Planet)

Issue: Very few women in rural villages have received any formal education and they are therefore unable to communicate well with their children who are receiving education, and they also have very little hope of any occupation or means of earning money.

Activities: 20 women have been taught basic literacy and numeracy in various villages in the District of Qarabagh. The courses last for 6 months, so that in a year, 40 women are taught.

Outcomes: The women are learning to read, write and count. This knowledge is giving them confidence in every day life, it is bringing them together with other women and it is affording them the opportunity of learning a skill.



Classes in Qalai-e-Kohna

Vocational Training for women in villages such as Qalai-e-Pahlawan, Qalai Sofian and Qalai-e-Kohna districts (Donor Lonely Planet)

Issue: Because the literacy and numeracy projects have been so successful, the village women were very enthusiastic to continue learning and to have vocational training.

Activities Sewing and dress making tuition is given to these women so that they can sew for their families and also learn to make articles for sale. Each village class lasts for 6 months and 20 women participate in each class.

Outcomes: Village women have not only learnt to read and write, they now have a skill which can be used for their families or together with the other women, they can form a collective in which to promote their products and create an income from sales of their goods. With AADOs support, five women are making school uniforms for 250 students who attend Dawudzai school.



Being taught by an expert!

Tuition for Year 12 students – Dawudzai village, Qarabagh (Donor Dr Nouria Salehi)

Activities: Extra tuition had been provided for 45 year 12 students in science and maths classes.

Outcome: Fourteen of the 45 students who attended these classes have gained entry into Kabul University. The remaining 31 students have been accepted into other institutions. As a result of these students doing exceptionally well, the number of year 12 students has doubled.

Tuition for Year 12 students – Dawudzai village, Qarabagh (Loretta Little)

Activities: Two tutors have been employed to provide extra tuition at the high school. One tutor will teach science and maths to Year 12, the other tutor will teach maths, English and science to Year 7-9 students until November 2008.

Outcome: The reports from the school and Nouria's visit show these students have a better understanding of their science, maths and chemistry.



Front entrance to Dawudazi High School



.A classroom in Dawudazi high school

Strategic Focus Area 2

Teacher training in Kabul (Donors SMEC Foundation, Portland House and Lonely Planet Foundation)

Issue: The poor state of education in Afghanistan has meant that many trained teachers do not have the skills to teach secondary students at the levels required for University Entrance. This particularly applies to maths and science teachers.

Activities: Two rounds of maths and science teacher training courses have been implemented with classes held in the Learning Centre in Kabul. The teachers, both male and female are selected by the Ministry of Education which is very grateful to AADO for conducting these classes. These teachers have been enrolled from outlying districts and travel to Kabul for this tuition with travel and out of pocket expenses being met by AADO.

Outcome: In total 100 teachers have completed this training, another 50 are currently undertaking the training which will be completed in November 2008.

Strategic Focus Area 3

Vocational training

Issue: Lack of education and skills means that there are very many youths who have basic education but no skills, which leaves them poor, discontented and vulnerable to being recruited by the Taliban who offer money to join them.

Activities: Two qualified carpenters who have returned from Pakistan have agreed to train these youths, with a workshop being set up in the grounds of the Learning Centre in Kabul. This course will take 9 months and the first course is due to finish in March 2009.

Outcomes: Eleven young men are learning new skills. A permanent workshop has been set up with the appropriate work benches and tools. At the end of the course it is hoped that a commercial workshop can be built outside the Learning Centre compound which would then afford permanent employment to graduates.

Strategic Focus Area 4

Maintenance to Dawudazi high school (Donors the Marquardt family, Salehi family & Planet Wheeler Foundation)

Activities: Dawudazi high school needed equipment and repairs.

Outcome: A toilet for female students and teachers was repaired and electricity has been wired to the school. A deep water pump has also been installed.

Year in review - Melbourne

Early in the year the AADO committee reviewed our strategic goals and implemented an information kit for committee members. Sub committees were formed and a time line created to report on activities. In March a proposal was sent to Planet Wheeler asking for their support and funding for the rural village projects in Afghanistan and for funds to help AADO build their capacity to grow both in Afghanistan and in Australia. Planet Wheeler did agree to fund both projects, and funds were transferred to Kabul for the rural villages and the 2008/09 year will see the expansion of AADO as explained earlier in the report.

A successful fund raising event was held in February—a film afternoon where ‘Charlie Wilson’s War’ was screened and afternoon tea served. This event was well supported and over \$3,000.00 was raised.



Afghan children with stationery bought with a donation from Mt Eliza North Primary School

Governing Body

Jose Simsa President AADO

MA(Socio), International aid worker in Africa & Asia

Cath Garner Vice President AADO

B App Sci(Adv Nsg), Grad Dip App Info Sys., M App Sci (ISM), Mission Integration Director, Cabrini Health

Nouria Salehi Executive Director AADO

OAM, Senior Physicist, Dept of Nuclear Medicine, RMH, International Society of Human Rights, Refugee Council of Australia,
Charter member Brotherhood of St Laurence

Rosemary Marquardt, Treasurer AADO

Company Director

Judith Mahoney, Secretary AADO

BA(Hon), Grad Dip Information Management
Librarian, Cabrini Health

Committee members : Neri Adams,

Loretta Little, Sevi Vassos, Homaira Mershed

Afghanistan, Kabul: Dr. Shamim, Dr. Daneshyar

Sub committees

International Development Program

Jose Simsa (Convenor)

Afghan Support Group

Sevi Vassos (Convenor)

Financial Reports

Rosemary Marquardt (Convenor)

Policy

Cath Garner (Convenor)

Promotion, membership & fundraising

Loretta Little (Convenor)

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The Afghan Australian Development Organisation is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct which defines minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for non-government development organisations. Adherence to the Code is monitored by an independent Code of Conduct Committee elected from the NGO community. Our voluntary adherence to the Code of Conduct demonstrates our commitment to ethical practice and public accountability.