

# **AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (AADO)**

Working in Afghanistan as the  
Afghan Australian Development  
and Rehabilitation Organisation

## **AADO ANNUAL REPORT**



**For the year ending 30 June, 2018**  
[www.aado.org.au](http://www.aado.org.au)

ABN 25 274 698 213



## **Afghan Australian Development Organisation** **Education                      Training                      Livelihoods**

### Working in Afghanistan as **Afghan Australian Development and Rehabilitation Organisation**

Established in 2002, the Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) provides education and training in Afghanistan for those with minimal opportunities, in particularly women, to foster sustainable livelihoods and professional skills development.

Working in Afghanistan as AADRO, the Afghan Australian Development and Rehabilitation Organisation, AADO has a proven track record of high outcome, low-cost programs which are delivered by local project staff with deep community networks and trusted relationships





## **Report from the President and Executive Director**

This year, despite a glimmer of hope for the dawning of peace with a unilateral ceasefire in June, attacks on civilians have been on the increase and the context of our work in Afghanistan remains very challenging. Nonetheless, the economy is edging towards recovery, schools are operating and stories of hope and advancement abound.

Our work is founded on the understanding of the critical role of education in accelerating peace and prosperity. A read through the pages that follow shows the Afghan women and men in our programs are committed to making the most of AADO's gift of education, training and livelihoods. Our work delivers great benefits because it is informed by and delivered by Afghans themselves.

As we take stock of another year of working at the coalface in Afghanistan, we thank our dedicated team in Kabul for their hard work and deep commitment to delivering our programs in a challenging environment. As Executive Director, Dr Nouria Salehi is in almost daily contact with the team, and has worked alongside them in August last year, and again in May and August this year. Despite the daily challenges, our staff continue to deliver our programs on time and within budget, and we thank each one of them for their hard work.

In September we were invited to showcase our work as change-makers at the Diasporas in Action national conference as an organisation that has enabled and sustained a voluntary, diaspora-led effort over 17 years. Our Executive Director is a leading example of an extraordinary diaspora leader bringing around her a group of skilled and experienced volunteers, philanthropic funding partners and a broad group of supporters and donors who have stayed the course to sustain and energise this endeavour.

For a number of years now, the Australian Government has spoken about the need for greater visibility and acknowledgement of the substantial contribution of diaspora-led NGO's like AADO. In AADO's case, we have successfully delivered humanitarian and development aid in Afghanistan since 2002 without government funding, aside from a few small DFAT grants for materials. This year we have worked hard to persuade DFAT to move more purposefully towards a fuller recognition of diaspora-led organisations in delivering Australia's aid. We convened a consortium group and put a proposal directly to the Minister for International Development that a new funding mechanism be trialled and tested – one specifically tailored for diaspora organisations. We outlined the purpose of the mechanism, how it might operate, its scope and monitoring elements and stand ready to implement it but it appears unlikely to be accepted in the short term.

AADO's funding base has always been in large part from philanthropic organisations. Our partnership since 2004 with Cabrini Mission in the Village Life Skills programs has now concluded as they re-focus funds on countries where their religious sisters live and work. Our heartfelt thanks go to Cabrini Mission, Cath Garner and Kate Barker for their sustained support over the years.

This year again, the Planet Wheeler Foundation supported our Master Science Teacher Training strategy, enabling more than 4,000 high school teachers to be re-trained to strengthen the quality of science teaching in senior secondary schools, and to support school success and university entrance for Afghanistan's young people. We thank Anna Demant and Mark Cubit for their support and good counsel in our advocacy with DFAT and the Government.



It is greatly disappointing that the Australian Government travel ban and recent acts of violence by ISIS has discouraged new funders who were otherwise interested in our work in Afghanistan. As DFAT withdraws from directly funding aid programs in Afghanistan, our programs are needed more than ever. We must secure substantial funding to enable us to extend the Master Science Teacher Training program beyond June 2019. Dr Salehi has ensured that AADO continues to enjoy a strong and fruitful working relationship with the Afghan Ministry of Education and we are pursuing a number of avenues with their support, however the situation is indeed challenging.

In Australia, we are an entirely voluntary organisation, and so we thank our committee members for their tireless work this year. Assema Lazlad, our Vice President and Geraldine Allen our Treasurer retired from the Committee and both have our warmest thanks and best wishes. Long-time AADO supporter Lyn Allison joined the executive team and Rob Gilchrist, a former intern, also came onto the Committee. We were delighted that in August, Amanda Pagan returned to take up her previous role of Treasurer. Jenny Sharwood OAM, another long-time supporter and former Committee member, also made a welcome return to the Committee.

Sadly, AADO lost its truest friend when Rosemary Marquardt passed away suddenly in December last year. Her tireless work for AADO as Treasurer and Secretary was always matched by her deep sense of compassion and such generosity of spirit. Former and current members of AADO's Committee joined long-time supporters and friends at a gathering to remember Rosemary's extraordinary contribution to AADO's work, her support of the team in Kabul and her love of Afghanistan and its people. A generous donation from the Marquardt family in Rosemary's memory has funded state-of-the-art carpentry equipment that will increase the capacity of our carpentry workshop to deliver a

broader range of furniture contracts.

This year our committee has redoubled its efforts to introduce AADO's work into new networks, including Science Teacher networks. We warmly welcome our new supporters and donors and look forward to seeing you again. Our annual fundraising event in March, the Nowroz luncheon celebrating Afghan New Year, was again a highlight and we were delighted to reach our fundraising target with a little help from a surprise donation. Our warmest thanks again go to Matthew Albert and Emily Forbes for their wonderful hospitality in opening up their beautiful historic home and garden for our luncheon.

Most of our programs rely almost entirely on the generosity of Australian people – donors big and small – and the dollars given go a long way in Afghanistan. We have had a steady increase in monthly donors who provide a level of certainty in our fundraising endeavours over the year. We warmly thank all our donors and supporters, with a special thanks to those new to AADO this year.



Sarina Greco and Dr Nouria Salehi OAM



Sarina Greco, President (L) and Dr Nouria Salehi OAM, Executive Director



**Vale Rosemary Marquardt**  
**AADO Treasurer 2007-14**  
**AADO Secretary 2015-17**  
**Friend of Afghans**

**Vale Rosemary Marquardt**

AADO lost its truest friend when Secretary and former Treasurer Rosemary Marquardt passed away suddenly in December last year. Her tireless work for AADO since 2007 was always matched by her deep sense of compassion and such generosity of spirit.

**Our work this year**

- Three hundred more teachers graduated as Master Science Teacher trainers in their own faculty and are now passing on their knowledge to other teachers. They join 4,100 other Master Teachers working as school-based training teams
- Nine former street boys were trained in the carpentry trade over 12 months and all went into jobs after graduation in September making a total of 90 skilled carpenters to contribute to the rebuilding of Afghanistan
- Another 210 women in seven villages joined the thousands of women who have learnt basic literacy and numeracy, as well as tailoring and horticulture to contribute to household income, and to act as role models for others
- Twelve widows are growing vegetables in greenhouses built by AADO, learning to grow food for their families for a nutritious diet especially in the harsh winter month

## Giving the Gift of Education to Village Women

Many rural women like Jamilla living in the Qarabagh district 50 kilometers north of Kabul were excluded from schooling during the Taliban decade and have had no chance to learn to read and write. As a result of the conflict, this whole district suffered severe damage to its agricultural, health and education infrastructure. Many village women have been widowed and left with children provide for.

Our year-long Village Life Skills program teaches rural women who have not received formal education, basic literacy and numeracy, alongside health, hygiene and first-aid training. Over the past year, a total of 210 women from seven villages in the western part of Qarabagh district have taken part in our classes. Our disability specialist partner, AHRSO, delivered skills for 60 village women with a disability.

Employing local female educators, the classes were conducted in the women's own villages with each class comprising 30 women between the ages of 16 and 40. In the second semester, they learnt dressmaking, tailoring and embroidery skills, all of which helps them earn some household income. Upon graduation, they are presented with a sewing machine of their own. Some women go on to establish their own business and earn their own income, while others sew for family and friends as a way to increase household income.

In Qala-e-Kohna village where we have built a large greenhouse, 12 widows are growing vegetable crops and learning about plant cultivation. Others are harvesting their crops in Baghar village and helping provide a balanced and nutritious diet for their families, especially in the harsh winter months. They are also earning income by growing flowers to sell at market. The knowledge gained by women through our village programs is shared with their children, friends and communities. Their status in the family and community is boosted and those women become role models for others who miss out on education.

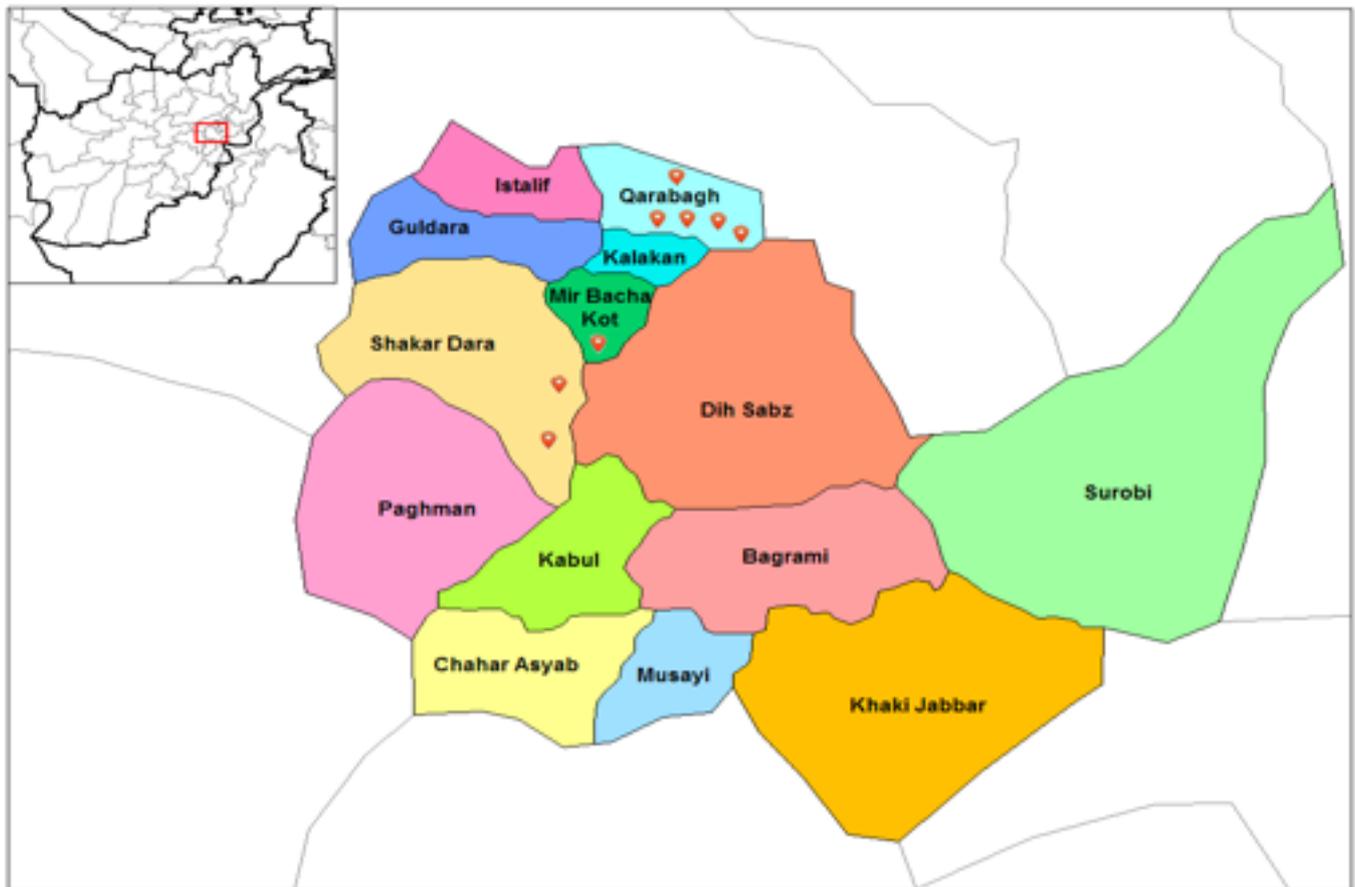
Now in our 15th year of working in the villages, over 1,500 rural Afghan women have had the gift of education, thanks to Cabrini Mission and the donations of AADO's supporters.

Jamilla lives in a village of Qarabag district: I am married and have four children. My husband died four years ago. I was interested in learning since childhood but I could not attend school and according to tradition I got married early. Whenever my children were facing any problems in their studies, I couldn't help them and had to ask my neighbours to help my children. I learned so much about keeping my children healthy. Now I am doing dressmaking and contributing to my family income. It was my dream to be a literate person, now I am literate and I can read and write, help my children and can solve my problems very well.





Women like Jamilla become role models for younger women who may also have missed out on a formal education.



Villages where we ran programs in Qarabagh district are located 50 kilometers north of Kabul City in Afghanistan.

## **Training Science Teachers to Ensure More Young Afghans Gain Access to University and Professional Skills**

The quality of education is one of the biggest challenges in Afghanistan after the Taliban decade. Our Master Science Teacher Training program addresses the problem of the majority of science teachers being under-qualified to teach a contemporary science curriculum at senior levels. Being under-qualified to teach is a major impediment to university entry of their students. The flow-on effect of this is that Afghanistan will not be able to develop the necessary skills for engineering, science, agriculture or health service delivery.

Teacher training in the science field is particularly important for Afghanistan, given its current and future development priorities including for example, engineering for infrastructure and water supply, as well as science for agricultural development and health service delivery.

Our Master Science Teacher Training program was designed as a direct response to the poor performance of students in senior secondary levels and failure of young Afghans to transition to senior secondary or tertiary education. Women teachers have the greatest need for re-training as they were altogether banned from teaching during the Taliban decade. They also play an important role in encouraging the partic-

ipation of girls in post-compulsory education. Since 2012, over 4,000 in-service secondary science and mathematics teachers have now been trained in theoretical and practical curriculum and modern pedagogy. Participants are selected by school principals on the basis of demonstrated leadership qualities. Around 60% are women. They now return to their schools as Master Science Teachers.

A train-the-trainer approach helps multiply the reach of AADO's training programs to the surrounding education community to support school success and university entrance for Afghanistan's young people.

Graduates, known as Master Science Teachers, in turn deliver training to teachers in their own and neighbouring schools. The practical benefits of our training reaches many additional teachers including new graduates and teachers re-entering the profession who have the support of Master Teachers on hand to develop confidence and stronger teaching skills in the classroom. As a result, hundreds of thousands of senior secondary students have indirectly benefited.

The demand for this training remains high and teachers are committed to making the most of this opportunity as demonstrated by a consistent full participation and graduation rates. The Ministry of Education fully endorses the training and encourages funding support.





**Nazia:** *I am a physic teacher in high school and have been doing my best to teach my students, but I had a lot of problems. I felt so shy to teach my class and had problems with the school books and our education departments couldn't really help me.*

*AADO's seminar has been useful and solved our problems a lot. Our trainer is very experienced and talented, since we are attending this seminar we have changed and learned a lot. I feel more confident and am happy to help my students learn well. This type of seminar must keep repeating till we don't have any problems left. I would like to thank AADO for making all this happen.*

### **Former Street Boys Training in Carpentry for a Job for Life**

In Kabul, many teenagers face incredible family hardship and are forced to work on the streets where they are exposed daily to extreme risks and dangers. Going to school and learning a trade is too often simply out of the question for them. Without skills and education they and their families are destined for a lifetime of income insecurity and extreme poverty.

This year we recruited our 11th cohort of street working boys into our Trade Training in Carpentry – an apprenticeship that secures a livelihood for them and their families. A

further nine teenagers have just completed their 12-month training, graduating with their own toolkit to set them up to work as carpenters. All of these boys have gone straight into jobs or are working for themselves. They add a further 90 carpenters to the class of young tradesmen for the rebuilding of Afghanistan. Another nine teenagers are currently in training.

Our carpentry workshop forms part of our Learning Centre in Kabul. Our Master Carpenter and his assistant, a former AADO apprentice, understand the students' circumstances and the daily difficulties they face. The program's success rests partly in the stipend we pay the trainees, which helps to replace the income they would otherwise earn on the streets. The boys must attend school each day for half the day and learn their trade in the workshop for the other half. They learn communication skills alongside the technical skills they require to find meaningful employment after graduation.

This year we found that our made-to-measure timber furniture and office fit outs have increasingly had to compete with cheap imports. A generous donation from the Marquardt family in Rosemary Marquardt's memory has paid for glass-cutting machinery and other tools for our carpentry workshop. This assists in building our capacity to take larger contracts including for doors and windows.

**Faisal:** *I am from Kandahar Province. We came to Kabul three years ago. We lost everything during my father and uncles war. We had thanks to AADO's for accepting me into this course. Before when I was seeing that other boys in my society can study and go to school, I said to myself I wish I was one of them, I wish I could go to school and learn a trade for a good job for me and my family. With joining carpentry course, I have learnt so much from course. Thanks to AADO, I feel good hope for the future of my family.*



## Thanks

We thank our funding partners

- Planet Wheeler Foundation
- Cabrini Mission
- Toyota Employee Community Grants program

We especially thank the following donors for their generous gift to AADO

Dick Marquardt  
Nouria Salehi  
Matthew Albert  
Neil and Christina Jenkins  
Constantine Pannousi and Birgit Reiman  
Shaheer Komak  
Nicholas Bogiatzis  
Lyn Allison  
Elizabeth and George Reid  
Roya Najeem  
Assad Najeem  
ML Jorgensen  
Dr Peter Hollingworth  
Theresa Antonello  
Fiona Catto  
Tim Butler

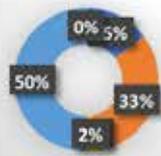
We thank all our monthly donors who help give us certainty of income over the year.

We thank Australian Volunteers International (AVI) for accommodating AADO and its board activities and sharing their physical and IT resources.

We thank the following for their pro bono donation of time, skills and facilities

Matthew Albert and Emily Forbes  
Paul Bird  
Julia Ferragamo  
Timor Salehi and staff at the Afghan Gallery restaurant  
Mark Crew CPA  
Eleanor Curtain and staff at Eleanor Curtain Publishing  
Sofia Lo Bianco  
Carole Ross  
George Boulos

## How AADO's work was funded 2017-18



### **Committee of Management**

#### Office holders

President	Sarina Greco Nov 2014 –
Vice-President	Assema Lazlad Nov 2017 – Nov 2018
Co-Secretary	Rosemary Marquardt 2007 – Dec 2018
Co-Secretary	Lyn Allison Nov 2017 –
Treasurer	Geraldine Allen March 2016 – July 2018 Amanda Pagan August 2018 –

Members	Robert Gilchrist Nov 2017 – Deborah Rhodes Nov 2017 – Jenny Sharwood Feb 2018 –
---------	---

Executive Director Dr Nouria Salehi OAM

### **Income Statement for the Year Ended 30th June 2018**

### **Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended**