



Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO)

ABN 25 274 698 213

The Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) is a voluntary, non-profit, non-government incorporated association. Its primary purpose is to implement projects that assist in the reconstruction and sustainable development of communities within Afghanistan. AADO seeks to support Afghan communities, both within Australia and in Afghanistan.



Annual Report 2022-2023
Annual General Meeting 27 November 2023

**Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO)
Annual Report 2022/2023
Annual General Meeting 27 November 2023, 5.00 pm
Afghan Gallery Restaurant, 327 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy**

1. Introduction

This Annual Report covers the activities of the Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) for the financial year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Established in 2002, AADO is committed to improving opportunities for the people of Afghanistan, particularly its women and girls, providing education, training and support. AADO is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. AADO is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). As a charitable development organisation, AADO relies on donations and benevolent funding and has accredited tax deductibility for such donations.

2. AADO Committee of Management (COM) members for 2022/23

COM members are elected at the AGM by AADO financial members who have voting rights. COM members for the 2022/23 financial year were:

Office	Holder
President	Jackie Fristacky AM
Executive Director	Dr Nouria Salehi AM
Vice President	Homaira Mershedi
Secretary	Jennifer Davis
Treasurer	David Brennan
Committee Members	Assad Najeem Sam Parslow Farida Malek

Brief Profiles of AADO COM Members for 2022/23

- **Dr Nouria Salehi OAM, AM - AADO Executive Director:** Nuclear physicist and biophysicist, AADO founder and Executive Director since 2002; formerly on the Board of the Refugee Council of Australia, Amnesty International Australia, Brotherhood of St Laurence
- **Jackie Fristacky, AM - AADO President:** Lawyer and public policy analyst; formerly taught at La Trobe University; worked in Federal and State governments including as a Tribunal member; former City of Yarra Councillor and Mayor; author of *My Mother and the Prince: Jana Shindler Fristacky in Kabul 1946-1952*
- **Homaira Mershed - Deputy President :** partner/manager at Afghan Gallery; former medical research assistant in nuclear medicine; medical laboratory scientist; interpreter/translator, trainer, events coordinator with UNHCR
- **Jennifer Davis - Secretary:** retired microbiologist with background in public health; volunteer at Community Radio; former Board Member and Chair, The Leprosy Mission Australia
- **David Brennan - Treasurer:** retired CPA with a background in financial management of manufacturing companies in Australia and Asia
- **Assad Najeem - Member:** Practising engineer; active in Afghan youth communities; helped found the Afghan Youth Soccer initiative
- **Farida Malek - Member:** works with CultureVerse, a multicultural engagement consultancy with former roles in multicultural youth and as a volunteer with Refugee Legal
- **Sam Parslow - Member:** final year of law school, Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT, with a keen interest in human rights law, geopolitics, and history

3. Report from AADO President and Executive Director

The year 2022/23 continued as an extremely difficult time for Afghans in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the US and allied nations' military withdrawal in 2021 and consolidation of Taliban regime power.

The contraction of development aid with continuing sanctions against the new regime, and with ongoing impacts of drought, intensified a humanitarian crisis with millions of Afghans facing famine due to lost income, cash shortages and rising food costs.

Transitioning from an insurgent group to a functional government with its foreign reserves frozen and aid curtailed, the Taliban regime has continued to struggle to provide Afghans with security, food, and essential services.

The year 2022/23 has also been a difficult year for AADO with a substantial decline in funding from donations in 2021/22 of \$204,403 to \$50,443 in 2022/23. The organisation's reduced finances as set out in our Statement of Financial Position below, is drawn to the attention of members for consideration of AADO's future.

Despite restrictions and reduced funding, AADO has still been able to continue development training work through 2022/23. This has included new courses for secondary schoolgirls offsetting them being deprived of attending school.

AADO courses in Afghanistan during 2022/23 are summarised here:

Year 12 Intensive Courses for Girls

With secondary schools for girls remaining closed under the new regime, AADO at the close of the previous financial year in June 2022 endorsed a new program for Year 12 girls to complete their secondary studies. This initiative was a 13 week intensive study program enabling girls to graduate and qualify for University entrance.

The program funded by AADO was supported by senior and tertiary teachers forming an Afghanistan Education Support Coalition (AESC) working with AADO's representatives in Kabul - AADRO (Afghan Australian Development and Rehabilitation Organisation).

AADO's first Year 12 intensive course for 200 secondary schoolgirls commenced in late July 2022 at a safe private facility in Kabul. The girls studied 5 key subjects: Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Dari and Pashto, taught by the AESC academics, male and female. All 200 girls who completed the course were approved by the Afghan Ministry for Education to sit the Year 12 graduation exam. All were successful and became qualified to enter higher education, or teach children in primary schools.

This led to a second intake of another 200 secondary schoolgirls in December 2022. However, part way through this 2nd intensive program, and with further restrictions on access to educational institutions for Afghan women and girls, the 2nd Year 12 intensive program was converted to on-line teaching for girls who had internet facilities at home. For girls without internet access at home, USBs were provided.

A 3rd Year 12 intensive program commenced in April 2023 for another 210 secondary schoolgirls. Of these students, 142 studied their five subjects (Maths, Geometry - Trigonometry, Physics, Chemistry, English) on-line while 68 girls did so using USBs.

The conversion to on-line courses provides a lifeline for depressed schoolgirls desperate to continue learning with hope for a better future. There have been other benefits as younger siblings and mothers also joined the on-line classes. The Year 12 students boosted their learning by providing additional explanations of the on-line subject matter to family members.

The enthusiasm of the girls for their studies is such that there were no gaps or shortfalls in attendance. Also requested was the addition of Statistics and Probability to Mathematics.

In addition, many other Afghan girls from 6th to 11th grades confined in their homes have requested on-line courses for their years. For AADO to provide such support, of course, would require further substantial additional funding.



Literacy and Livelihoods for Village Women

AADO during 2022/23 continued funding 5 village courses in literacy, numeracy and dressmaking for 102 rural women, commencing in November 2021 and concluding in November 2022. On graduation, women were gifted sewing machines used in the course.

At the repeated requests of local authorities, another course for 100 women in 5 regional villages in the Qara Bagh District of Kabul Province commenced in May 2023. This village program continued during the rest of the 2023 financial year, but is not due to be completed until February 2024, in the next financial year.

With reduced funding to AADO, this set of 5 village courses did not include the sewing machine component. Nevertheless the students are requesting re-inclusion of tailoring /sewing alongside the literacy aspects of the village program.



Master Science Teacher Training (MSTT) resumed in 2022

AADO since 2007, has upskilled over 6,000 science teachers across Afghanistan through MSTT modules in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

With an acute shortage of qualified staff, the Afghan Ministry for Education under the new regime supported AADO's MSTT programs for female science teachers during 2022. Female science teachers and others graduating from AADO funded courses may be assigned to teach year 7-9 boys at secondary schools. For years 10-12, boys are allocated male teachers.

However, with reduced funding, restrictions on women working and the continued closure of girls' secondary schools, the last intake of 100 female science teachers for MSTT concluded in August 2022. Despite Ministry requests for AADO to continue MSTT, reduced funding to AADO, combined with the regime's restrictions on girls attending secondary schools and on women working meant that AADO's priorities were redirected to the less expensive on-line programs for Year 12 girls and literacy courses for women in villages.

Other AADO activities:

AADO's annual **Nowroz Afghan New Year celebration** was again held for members and supporters at the Afghan Gallery on 30 April 2023, delayed from March due to the timing of Ramadan. Thanks to Committee Member Homaira Mershed, Manager at the Afghan Gallery for hosting this event. Our special guest at Nowroz 2023 was former judge and prosecutor of Herat Province, Mahtab Fazl, who spoke on "*Experiences of a Female Judge Protecting Women's Rights in Afghanistan*".

AADO is grateful for the support of the International Association of Women Judges, Australian Chapter, especially Melbourne Judges Frances Millane and Wendy Wilmoth, who helped arrange Mahtab as Nowroz guest speaker. Thanks also to Sheila Byard of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Victoria Status of Women Committee, and of the Victorian Soroptimists who have helped fund AADO's work.

AADO during 2022/23, via Ministerial correspondence and as a member of ACFID (the Australian Council for International Development), continued to advocate accelerated processing of Afghan visa applications. Although Immigration Minister Andrew Giles secured additional processing staff and process changes, these were largely applied to applications from Ukraine and other countries.

Of over 208,000 humanitarian visa applications from Afghanistan since the regime change in August 2021, it is understood that over 50,000 have been rejected and only 13,612 accepted. A massive 144,000 applications are still pending.

Appreciation of support for AADO

AADO's work being exceptionally demanding, could not have been achieved without huge efforts to ensure continuation of training programs in Afghanistan. Thanks to all AADO Committee of Management members for their contributions, but especially to Secretary Jen Davis for handling the demands of correspondence and record keeping, to AADO's esteemed Treasurer David Brennan for efficiently recording our accounts in trying circumstances, and to AADO's dedicated representatives in Kabul.

Finally, hearty thanks to AADO's members and supporters for your donations which have made AADO's ongoing vital work in Afghanistan possible.

Jackie M Fristacky AM, President



Jackie M. Fristacky

Dr Nouria Salehi AM, Executive Director



N. Salehi

AADO Financial Report for 2022/23

The full audited Financial Statements dated 25th September 2023 with explanation of Notes and Independent Auditor's Report, PMK Partners, is available on AADO's website: www.aado.org.au/resources/ or on request

Summary of AADO Financial Position

Donation and foundation funding to AADO reduced substantially in 2022/23 from \$204,403 in 2021/22 to just \$50,443 in 2022/23. This has caused re-evaluation of our programs with curtailing of MSTT, and concern as to the extent of AADO's ongoing development program capacity.

Despite this, AADO was able to fund delivery of three Year 12 courses for secondary schoolgirls and 5 Village programs for women in 2022/23 due to:

- carryover from the substantial donations in 2021/22 which responded to the dramatic media focus on Afghanistan with the fall of the Afghan government in August 2021 and concerns over the safety of Afghan people;
- reduced cost of the Year 12 girls' program run on-line rather than at a private facility eliminating some rent, transport and security overheads;
- cutting the cost of the 5 Literacy and Livelihoods courses by omitting the sewing machine component to focus on literacy and numeracy; and
- a deficit of \$66,566 for the 2022/23 financial year depleting AADO's reserve.

With entirely voluntary personnel in Australia, overheads continue to be low.

However, without additional donations and depleting carryover reserve funds, AADO is seeking additional funding domestically and internationally.

Without such additional funding, the continuation of AADO's role is being re-assessed by the COM with the need to raise responsible options regarding this role with members and supporters at our November AGM.

Depending on the outcome of sourcing additional funds from the time of preparing this Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023 to the AGM in November, AADO may have to face the prospect of ceasing its activities and determining appropriate action to do so.

AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATON
ABN 25 274 698 213

The following three tables are extracted from AADO's financial statements audited by
 PMK Partners

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Monetary Donations and Gifts		50,443	204,403
Fundraising Activities Income		2,479	6,438
Sale of Books		2,740	1,325
Interest Received		338	31
Membership Fees		360	510
Foreign Currency Exchanges		<u>940</u>	<u>(2,249)</u>
	3	<u>57,300</u>	<u>210,458</u>
EXPENDITURE			
International Programs		116,807	219,165
Accountability and Administration		<u>7,059</u>	<u>6,318</u>
		<u>123,866</u>	<u>225,483</u>
Loss for the year		<u>(66,566)</u>	<u>(15,025)</u>
Total income for the year		<u>(66,566)</u>	<u>(15,025)</u>

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	<u>65,552</u>	<u>177,960</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>65,552</u>	<u>177,960</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>65,552</u>	<u>177,960</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	5	<u>18,839</u>	<u>64,681</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>18,839</u>	<u>64,681</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>18,839</u>	<u>64,681</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>46,713</u>	<u>113,279</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained earnings	6	<u>46,713</u>	<u>113,279</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>46,713</u>	<u>113,279</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2021		128,304	128,304
Profit attributable to members		<u>(15,025)</u>	<u>(15,025)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2022		113,279	113,279
Profit attributable to members		<u>(66,566)</u>	<u>(66,566)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2023		<u>46,713</u>	<u>46,713</u>

‘The massive collapse of the economy immediately after the takeover, combined with the adverse effects of an unusually severe drought, have accelerated Afghanistan’s decade-long slide into poverty, and turned it into one of the poorest two or three countries in the world.’

‘The vast majority of ordinary Afghans, with few coping mechanisms at their disposal, have been plunged into crisis. Beyond the headlines, poor Afghans are being forced to cut back on consumption (including for food), borrow heavily, beg and resort to desperate measures to survive.’

Afghanistan Socio-Economic Outlook 2023 (United Nations Development Programme)



In March-April 2023, the Afghan Australian Development and Rehabilitation Organisation (AADRO) provided basic food supplies to about 110 poor and needy families in Afghanistan, who were below the poverty line.

This was made possible by generous private Australian donations, to the value of \$10,000.

Photographs of participants in this report have been digitally altered for security reasons. Pictures of Year 12 Intensive Courses for Girls were taken before the switch to online learning in early 2023.



Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self - regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

For any issues of concern regarding AADO, please email info@aado.org.au. Our website www.aado.org.au sets out a complaint handling policy. If not satisfied with AADO’s response to any complaint and you believe there is a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct, the matter can be lodged with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at code@acfid.asn.au. Information about how to make a complaint to ACFID can be found at www.acfid.asn.au