

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PATHWAY FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN

IMPACT REPORT
SEP 2023 - JUNE 2024

MOSAIC FOUNDATION
FORMERLY KNOWN AS MOSAIC AFGHANISTAN



Celebrating One Year of Girls Education Impact
Mosaic Foundation
Achievements and Impact Report

Alternative Learning Pathways for Adolescent Girls in Afghanistan



"It was my everlasting wish to support the oppressed and deprived girls of my country. Today, I have become one of them, and it is insufferable. I suffered a lot in the last two years, but now the school is keeping us hopeful through its programme."

— Marwah, Grade 9 Student

The **Alternative Learning Pathways for Adolescent Girls** in Afghanistan is a beacon of hope, addressing the educational gap created by restrictions imposed on female students.

This initiative, led by **Mosaic Foundation** in partnership with a private school in Kabul, has positively impacted 590 girls from grades 7 to 12, providing a lifeline for students deprived of their right to education. Also 95% of our staff is female as part of our female economic empowerment initiative.

Despite severe socio-political challenges, the programme has persevered, nurturing the intellect, skills, and dreams of girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy for women's rights.



Summary



This report highlights the extraordinary achievements of the programme from 2023 to 2024, focusing on:

1. **Key Milestones**
2. **Educational Impact**
3. **Security and Safety Adaptations**
4. **Global Partnerships**
5. **Holistic Empowerment Initiatives**
6. **Strategic Recommendations for Future Impact**

Through resilience, innovation and unyielding commitment, this project has demonstrated the transformative power of education in the most challenging circumstances.



"When the doors to education were closed for girls in Afghanistan, I felt like my dreams had been shattered. But through the school, I found hope and purpose again. The teachers and staff not only gave us knowledge but restored our faith in a future where we can stand strong and independent. This programme is not just about education; it's about giving us back our lives."

Amina, Grade 10 Student

Project Overview

The project aimed to re-engage 500 girls, aged 12-18, in grades 7 to 12, who had been denied education due to the political situation in Afghanistan. Based in Kabul, the programme strictly adhered to the national curriculum and provided students with catch-up programmes designed to return them to formal schooling once public schools reopen.

Key Objectives:

- To provide educational continuity for adolescent girls.
- To support their psychological well-being amid the upheaval.
- To prepare girls for economic independence by integrating vocational training in handicrafts and tailoring.
- To foster leadership skills through innovative programs that promote critical thinking and global citizenship.

The project aligned with Afghanistan's Block Grant Programme and introduced a holistic approach, balancing academic learning with practical life skills and leadership development.

Our Missions

- **Expand Educational Access:** We provide educational opportunities to girls who have been denied their right to learn, breaking barriers to education.
- **Empowerment Through Education and Skills:** We aim to empower girls and women through education, skills training, and economic opportunities, enabling them to lead fulfilling and independent lives.
- **Advocacy for Women's Rights:** We promote gender equality and challenge oppressive norms that undermine women's rights in Afghanistan.
- **Fostering Community Trust:** We engage local communities, building trust through dialogue and shared goals to amplify our impact.
- **Safety and Security:** We ensure that the safety and security of students and staff remain our top priority in the face of security challenges and societal tensions.

Achievements & Milestones

- 1. Exceeding Enrollment Goals:** Despite numerous socio-political obstacles, the programme enrolled 590 students, surpassing the original target of 500. Student attendance remained at 80%, underscoring the initiative's effectiveness.
- 2. Academic Excellence Amidst Adversity:** 430 students successfully passed the final exams and advanced to the next grade level, an extraordinary achievement considering the barriers they face.
- 3. Administration of Exams:** The administration of the monthly, mid-project and end-project/year exams was executed with precision, ensuring a seamless examination and due processes.
- 4. Vocational Training:** Students gained practical skills in handicrafts and tailoring, enabling them to attain economic self-sufficiency.
- 5. Extra Lessons:** Implemented targeted interventions to support girls academically, such as providing extra lessons to newly admitted students to ensure equitable opportunities for all.
- 6. Female Economic Empowerment:** More than 90% of the project team consists of women, empowering them through employment and leadership roles to navigate the challenging socio-political situation.
- 7. Security Measures:** With proactive security measures, including the issuance of identification cards and strategic compliance with regime regulations, we ensured the safety of students and staff.
- 8. Financial Stewardship:** The project utilized 96% of the allocated budget efficiently, adapting to the needs of an expanding student body and securing necessary resources.
- 9. Mosaic and the school partnership:** The partnership and collaboration between Mosaic Afghanistan and the school significantly enhanced the project's acceptance within the community.
- 9. Global Collaboration:** Through collaboration with the Tony Blair Institute (TBI) and its Generation Global programme, we equipped students with critical thinking, leadership, and global citizenship skills.



"It wasn't just about books and lessons; it was about empowerment and rebuilding what was lost."

Zinat, Grade 10 Student

Safety & Security



In response to the precarious security situation, Mosaic Foundation and its partner implemented robust safety protocols. We ensured the security of our staff and students remains our top priority.

- **Regime Compliance:** The teams obtained certification from the Ministry of Education for winter and language courses on the one hand and Islamic teaching course on the other to continue the classes and avoid any doubt from the authorities.
- **Identification Cards:** To enhance security measures and control access to school, we distributed identification cards to students enrolled. It facilitated better monitoring and management of student attendance and prevented access to unknown people, which helped us build confidence among our students and staff.
- **Proper Clothing:** We ensured students and staff wear clothes according to the *de facto* authorities' guidelines when coming to the school.
- **Strategic School Closures:** The school temporarily closed during heightened security threats, reopening after a careful risk assessment.
- **Community Engagement:** Open communication with local leaders fostered a supportive environment, ensuring the community's trust and cooperation. Primarily, we connected well with previous government employees, which helped us build trust and achieve our goals.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Adaptation:** Through our security team, we regularly assessed security situations to identify threats, areas for improvement and implement corrective actions as needed.

Fighting Gender Persecution

In a country plagued by gender discrimination, where girls are systematically denied access to education, this project is a powerful act of defiance, a cultural resistance. By providing education and skills training to girls, we challenge oppressive societal norms that marginalise women.

This initiative contributes to the long-term dismantling of gender-based inequalities by enabling girls in Afghanistan to assert their rights, develop life skills, and become active contributors to society.



We are committed to fighting inequality on multiple fronts and increasing hope for the future

- **Education Access:** By providing education opportunities to 500 females initially and subsequently over 600 students enrolled, we have contributed to addressing the gender disparity in access to education. We actively work to ensure that girls have equal access to quality education and consequently combat educational inequality.
- **Empowerment through Skills Training:** The inclusion of practical skills training in handicrafts, tailoring, and artwork empowers young girls with essential skills for economic independence. Our initiatives not only equip them with tangible skills but also foster a sense of dignity and self-sufficiency, which contributes to the reduction of economic inequality in the long run.
- **Economic Empowerment:** By providing paid opportunities for women as teachers and project staff, we aim to address economic inequality. It improves financial stability for them and their families and promotes gender equality and financial stability.
- **Advocacy for Women's Rights:** Through its holistic approach, the project advocates for women's rights, including the right to education and economic empowerment. By empowering young girls with education and skills, we contribute to breaking the cycle of inequality and discrimination against women and girls in the country.
- **Psychological well-being:** Through our project, we have significantly contributed to the psychological well-being of more than 500 girls in Afghanistan, as our direct beneficiaries, by providing them with hope for a brighter future.
- **Family hope:** Increasing the hope of families, as the indirect beneficiaries, and the broader community after two decades full of hopes for a better country ruined by the current regime.

We are firmly committed to fighting inequality and promoting social justice in Afghanistan.

Global Partnerships

Our partnership with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) represents our commitment to providing a comprehensive education and promoting global citizenship. We have gone beyond the traditional curriculum to foster the growth of employees and students through implementing the TBI's Generation Global (Gen G) programme. The online training for 30 of our staff, including teachers, was held for three consecutive days in critical thinking, civil engagement, and accurate analysis of fake news, disinformation, misinformation, social media and less credible mass media. Afterwards, the staff started training or cascading it to students in these areas and effectively collaborated to instill the core values of global citizenship in them. The TBI issued school staff training completion certificates.



- By integrating these modules, we are providing our staff and students with a holistic learning experience that prepares them for success in various aspects of life beyond the classroom.
- While the Taliban have preached a closed-minded ideology in the country, our training focuses on tolerance and religious pluralism to enhance their awareness and counter the regime's dogmatic ideology and extremist interpretation of Islam.
- Gen G programme has also facilitated our employees' professional development, helping them effectively deliver the curriculum and support student growth.
- Gen G programme's emphasis on real-world applications and practical learning experiences connects the classroom to real-life situations and challenges.
- More than 500 students were trained in the school by the teachers.

Activities and Case Study and Reflection

- **Identity and Self-Awareness:** Students shared their identities and personal experiences, particularly the challenges faced by women and girls in their society.
- **Discussion on Women's Challenges:** Students discussed early marriage, education barriers, and the dangers faced by women in Afghanistan. They proposed logical solutions to discussions.
- **Critical Reflection:** The discussions extended to recognising women's achievements and fostering an environment where women can succeed. Students reflected on their future education prospects and discussed others role in supporting their learning.
- **The Role of Education:** Students examined the role of education and how it could be improved, emphasizing the importance of active listening and critical thinking. They gained insights into the challenges women face without education.

Success Stories

1- "I was a university student before the Taliban administration. However, unfortunately, after the Taliban retook power, like hundreds of thousands of girls, I was stopped from studying. I always thought about how to continue my education again and save myself from sitting at home. Finally, after two years of unemployment, I taught girls above the sixth grade in this school. By doing this, I could earn money and more importantly help girls left out of school. In addition, this is how I can do at least something for them. The programme was underground, and despite thousands of dangers, we had to be very careful so that the Taliban would not be aware of this issue. However, these daily fears never stopped us from moving forward." **(Pakiza, Teacher)**

2- "I was in the 9th grade before the Taliban, but due to their restrictions, I could not continue my studies. I could not attend school for almost two years and had no hope of returning to school until, through my uncle's daughter, I found out about the school, and this was the opportunity I was always waiting for. The fact that I finished one year of education despite the existing limitations is a great success for me. On my way, I faced problems and feared when the Taliban blocked our way. Still, I had to go to school and study. It is a dream come true that I want to achieve at any cost. I do not know how long these restrictions will continue and how long I can continue, but I will not hesitate as long as I have the opportunity to continue my education." **(Asma, Grade 11 student)**

3- "As a teacher, I have been teaching girls in my country for several years. I love my job because it allows me to teach and have an income at the same time to help my family. It gives me a beautiful feeling.... The de facto authorities disappointed us. Fortunately, we had great hope during this period, and I request you not to disappoint us again by discontinuing this programme. It must continue." **(Marwa, Teacher)**

4- "It is tough to be a girl in Afghanistan because we are deprived of our religious, conscience, and human rights. In the past, we had educated women who supported our rights, but now, we are in a situation where we cannot raise our voices at all. When the schools were closed, we were disappointed and I thought the girls of Afghanistan would never get their rights. Soon, I realized people were still standing with us and supporting us. I thank you for this programme they run here for girls." **(Mariam, Grade 12 student)**

5- "I am from Kabul province and have a family of ten people, including six sisters. After hearing about , I was very excited and happy because I could continue my lessons without a fee and get free books and stationery. Even though there were many restrictions and the girls were imprisoned, I fought with my fears and confronted the ignorant who were stopping us from studying." **(Basirah, Grade 8 student)**



Recommendations for Future Impact

1. **Expand Funding to Underserved Areas:** Target funds to increase access for girls in remote and underserved regions, addressing educational inequality.
2. **Enhance Vocational Training:** Invest in skill-building programs like handicrafts and tailoring to provide girls with income-generating skills and a sustainable justification for the program.
3. **Mental Health Support:** Address the growing need for psychological support for students and staff, helping them cope with trauma and anxiety.
4. **Increase Staff Incentives:** Provide competitive salaries to attract and retain top educators, especially given the risks they face.
5. **Focus on English and IT Skills:** Prioritize English language and computer literacy to enhance girls' global opportunities and sustain the project's relevance in the digital age.

A Future of Hope and Equality

Our program has laid the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future for Afghanistan's girls. Through education, empowerment, and relentless advocacy, we are reshaping the lives of hundreds of girls who now dare to dream again. But this is only the beginning. Together, with continued support and investment, we can expand the impact of this vital initiative and create lasting change in Afghanistan.

We are not just providing education—we are igniting a revolution for equality, justice, and hope.



THANK YOU

MORE INFORMATION

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With sincere appreciation,
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