



د افغانستان اميد بشري خدمتونه مؤسسه  
مؤسسۀ خدمات بشري اميد افغانستان  
OMOID AFGHANISTAN HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

# NGO PROFILE

## *Reach us at...*

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## OAHS Analysis on Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation:

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan has a significant impact on different groups, particularly women and girls. Traditional gender norms and patriarchal cultures contribute to discrimination against women, making them more vulnerable and less able to recover from shocks. In rural areas, women face additional challenges due to gender norms and lack of services.

Several factors contribute to the gender disparities in Afghanistan. The **literacy rate for women** is estimated at 23 percent, compared to 52 percent for men. Conflict and displacement have disrupted traditional family units, leading to more households headed by women, older people, and even children. Restrictions on women's access to services have been further exacerbated since the new regime came to power in 2021.

Access to **health services**, markets, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) resources is complex and dependent on various factors. Women-headed households face barriers such as high costs and limited availability. Discrimination is a significant reason why women are denied access to services. The absence of women staff and restrictions on women humanitarian workers also hinder women's access to services. The collapse of the healthcare system, combined with rising rates of early marriage and pregnancy, puts women at risk of maternal death and infant mortality. Additionally, approximately 28 percent of women in Afghanistan do not have national identity cards, which limits their ability to access services and education. Women's ability to work and earn a livelihood has been disproportionately affected by gender disparities in the labor force, the economic crisis, and new employment and movement restrictions.

**Food insecurity is also a concern**, with women and girls often being the lowest priority in terms of access to food and nutrition within households. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis have further impacted sectors employing a significant percentage of women, such as agriculture, public administration, and social services.

While conflict has ceased in some parts of the country, **women and girls still face protection** incidents. Limited access to services, particularly for ethnic minority groups, those with disabilities, and those in remote areas, remains a key challenge.

**Key barriers to participation and accountability** in humanitarian action include limited consultation with women and under-represented groups, lack of awareness and use of feedback mechanisms, exclusion of women and under-represented groups in decision-making, lack of diversity among humanitarian staff, and restrictions on women aid workers.

**Vulnerable groups**, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, rural women and girls, widows, youth, and ethnic minority groups, are under-represented in assessments and rarely benefit from targeted programming. Economic hardship and food insecurity disproportionately affect households headed by women, leading to negative coping strategies such as limiting food intake and increased child labor.

**Access to education for girls has been restricted**, with schooling capped at the primary level in most provinces since August 2021. The lack of girls' schools and women teachers, especially in remote areas, has been exacerbated by movement restrictions and unpaid salaries for teachers.

In summary, the complex humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan disproportionately affects women and girls due to gender-specific restrictions, discrimination, and limited access to services. Multiple barriers hinder their participation and accountability in humanitarian action, exacerbating economic hardship, food insecurity, and restricted access to education. Targeted programming and efforts to address these challenges are crucial to support the most vulnerable groups in Afghanistan.



## OUR PORTFOLIO:

OMAID Afghanistan Humanitarian Services (OAHS): *Empowering Communities for Sustainable Change*

OMAID Afghanistan Humanitarian Services (OAHS) is a distinguished non-political, non-governmental, and non-profit women-led organization that was established in September 2010. Registered under 1811 of the Ministry of Economics, Government of Afghanistan, OAHS is dedicated to providing essential assistance to the most vulnerable and needy populations in the country.

At OAHS, we believe in bringing hope and opportunities to those who need it the most. Our primary focus is on serving internally displaced people, women, women's health, children, human rights, and other marginalized groups. Through our integrated rural rehabilitation, inclusive development, and humanitarian programs, we strive to empower individuals and communities to improve their socioeconomic conditions and create sustainable change.

Our initiatives encompass a wide range of areas, including women empowerment, vocational training, literacy initiatives, infrastructure development, health education, food security, and community mobilization activities. By addressing these crucial aspects, we aim to uplift communities and provide them with the tools to overcome challenges and create a better future.

At OAHS, we strongly advocate for social justice, gender equality, and inclusive development. Our core values of compassion, integrity, and collaboration guide our approach as we strive to make a lasting impact on the lives of the people we serve. We believe that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, should have access to education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and a sense of dignity and belonging.

By working towards building a future where every girl and individual in Afghanistan can thrive, we are committed to creating a brighter tomorrow. With our unwavering dedication and the support of our partners and stakeholders, we are confident in our ability to make a difference and contribute to positive change in Afghanistan.

Join us in our mission and together, let's build a society where hope, opportunity, and sustainable development flourish.



## OUR MISSION:

OAHS is a women-led organization dedicated to providing essential assistance to the most vulnerable and needy populations in Afghanistan. Through integrated rural rehabilitation, inclusive development, and humanitarian programs, we empower women, individuals, and communities to improve their socioeconomic conditions and create sustainable change.

## OUR VISION:

OAHS envisions a future where every girl and individual in Afghanistan has access to education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and a sense of dignity and belonging. We believe in promoting social justice, gender equality, and inclusive development, and we are committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of the people we serve by upholding our values of compassion, integrity, and collaboration.



## **OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM GOALS OF OAHS:**

### **1. Promoting Education and Professional Development for Women and Girls;**

In recognition of the challenging situation in Afghanistan, OAHS is committed to promoting education, training, and professional development for women and girls. Through targeted initiatives, OAHS aims to empower women to overcome barriers and participate fully in economic life across all sectors. By doing so, OAHS contributes to building stronger economies, achieving internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improving the quality of life for women, men, families, and communities.

### **2. Improving Health and Reducing Morbidity and Mortality;**

OAHS places a strong emphasis on the health and well-being of vulnerable members of society. By providing medical services, training, and health research, OAHS aims to reduce morbidity and mortality rates and promote health education. This includes reaching out to those facing the greatest challenges, ensuring access to essential healthcare and empowering individuals to make informed decisions regarding their well-being.

### **3. Alleviating Poverty through Emergency, Rehabilitation, and Development Projects;**

OAHS recognizes that poverty alleviation is crucial for sustainable development. Through emergency response initiatives, rehabilitation efforts, and long-term development projects, OAHS seeks to address the root causes of poverty and create pathways towards economic stability and self-sufficiency.

### **4. Enhancing Education and Knowledge in Target Communities;**

OAHS is dedicated to enhancing education and knowledge among its target populations, with a special focus on women and girls. By improving access to education and promoting literacy initiatives, OAHS empowers individuals to expand their opportunities, gain new skills, and enhance their socioeconomic conditions.

### **5. Increasing Employment Opportunities through Vocational Training and Skills Improvement Programs;**

OAHS understands the importance of employment opportunities in achieving sustainable development. By providing vocational training and skills improvement programs, OAHS equips individuals with the necessary tools to secure gainful employment and improve their livelihoods.

### **6. Raising Awareness of Sustainable Development, Democracy, and Human and Women's Rights;**

OAHS actively raises awareness of the challenges and opportunities related to sustainable development, democracy, and human and women's rights. By promoting dialogue and engaging communities, OAHS strives to foster a culture of inclusion, participation, and respect for fundamental rights.

### **7. Fostering Local and International Partnerships;**

OAHS recognizes the importance of collaboration and cooperation in achieving its goals. By fostering partnerships with local residents, authorities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), OAHS ensures effective communication, shared objectives, and the successful execution of its activities. Such partnerships also facilitate technical assistance and cooperation, enabling OAHS to maximize its impact and reach.

### **Whom We Operate For;**

OAHS is dedicated to extending assistance to the most marginalized and disadvantaged segments of Afghan society. This includes returning refugees, internally displaced persons, impoverished families, women, the unemployed, the uneducated, and community-based organizations. OAHS acknowledges the significance of the agricultural sector and rural activities, directing special attention to initiatives that promote productive and sustainable livelihoods at the grassroots level. By empowering these vulnerable individuals and communities, OAHS works towards fostering a more inclusive and resilient society.





## Program Goals;

### Current Objectives:

- Assisting the most vulnerable and needy communities.
- Supporting the resettlement and livelihood coping strategies of refugees and internally displaced persons.
- Rehabilitating basic civil infrastructures.
- Combating the spread of infectious diseases.
- Building the capacity of Afghans to meet their future needs.

### Short-Term Program Objectives:

- Promoting food security and creating income and employment opportunities.
- Improving the health conditions of people and controlling the spread of communicable diseases.
- Rehabilitating and restoring basic civic facilities.
- Containing environmental degradation and promoting environmental protection and conservation.
- Facilitating the repatriation and resettlement of internally displaced people and refugees.
- Ensuring the availability of adequate basic social services at the community level.

### Medium and Long-Term Program Objectives:

- Promoting community empowerment and establishing self-help development organizations at the grassroots level.
- Increasing food security and production through access to agriculture development facilities.
- Provision of basic social services at the community level.
- Proper utilization of natural resources and prevention of environmental degradation.
- Generating job opportunities and increasing family income.
- Ensuring organizational sustainability through entrepreneurial activities.
- Ensuring the availability of trained human resources at the organization and community levels.
- Empowering communities through the establishment of community-based organizations.

By aligning its objectives and program goals with the needs of the communities it serves, OAHS is dedicated to making a tangible and sustainable impact on the lives of the people of Afghanistan.

## STRATEGIC PLAN:

### *Building a Sustainable Future for Afghanistan*

OAHS's strategic plan for the future is driven by a deep understanding of the current conditions within Afghanistan. With a steadfast commitment to poverty alleviation and a focus on those affected by drought, conflict, and extreme poverty, the organization aims to provide essential support for immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term development.

To achieve its objectives, OAHS follows a methodological approach rooted in the needs and context of the communities it serves:

- **Tailored Solutions based on Local Needs:** OAHS designs and implements interventions based on identified and locally expressed needs. By understanding the social structure of the communities, OAHS ensures that solutions are customized and relevant, addressing challenges specific to each area.
- **Systemic and Interdisciplinary Analysis:** OAHS conducts a comprehensive analysis of local needs through a systemic and interdisciplinary approach. This holistic perspective enables OAHS to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by communities, leading to effective and targeted interventions.
- **Inclusive Approach with a Focus on Marginalized Groups:** OAHS recognizes the importance of inclusivity and prioritizes the needs of women, youth, and marginalized minorities. The organization designs actions that take into account the constraints and specific needs of different population segments, ensuring that marginalized groups are not left behind. Moreover, OAHS actively promotes the



establishment of inclusive mechanisms and progressively transferring responsibilities to local partners from the outset.

- By adhering to these principles and approaches, OAHS aims to create a meaningful and sustainable impact on the lives of the most vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. The organization recognizes that long-term development requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond immediate relief, focusing on capacity building, self-determination, and the strengthening of civil society.

### **Strategic Plan for Women's Empowerment, Education, Health, Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection, and Food Security**

This strategic plan aims to outline a comprehensive framework for promoting women's empowerment, education, health, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, and food security within the context of Omaid Afghanistan Humanitarian Services. By addressing these critical areas, we will contribute to the overall development and well-being of Afghan women and communities.

- ☐ OAHS aims to create a society where women are empowered, educated, healthy, and food secure, free from violence and discrimination, and where children are protected and nurtured.
- ☐ In addition, Omaid Afghanistan Humanitarian Services is dedicated to promoting women's rights, providing quality education, healthcare, and psychosocial support, preventing gender-based violence, protecting children, and ensuring food security for vulnerable communities through targeted interventions and collaborations with key stakeholders.

#### **Objectives:**

##### **1. Women Empowerment:**

- Increase women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels.
- Enhance economic opportunities and financial inclusion for women.
- Promote gender equality and challenge gender norms and stereotypes.

##### **2. Education:**

- Improve access to quality education for girls, especially in rural and marginalized communities.
- Enhance educational facilities and resources, ensuring a conducive learning environment for girls.
- Promote lifelong learning and skill development programs for women.

##### **3. Health:**

- Improve access to comprehensive and gender-responsive healthcare services for women and girls.
- Enhance maternal and child healthcare services to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.
- Raise awareness about reproductive health and family planning, with a focus on women's rights and empowerment.

##### **4. Gender-Based Violence Prevention:**

- Establish comprehensive programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to challenge harmful gender norms and promote gender equality.
- Provide psychosocial support and counseling services for survivors of gender-based violence.

##### **5. Child Protection:**

- Strengthen child protection systems to prevent and respond to child abuse, exploitation, and neglect.
- Promote birth registration and ensure access to quality education, healthcare, and social services for children.
- Raise awareness about child rights and advocate for their enforcement.



## **6. Food Security;**

- Enhance agricultural productivity and promote sustainable farming practices.
- Improve access to nutritious and diverse food options for vulnerable communities.
- Strengthen food storage and distribution systems to ensure food security during emergencies.

### **Strategies:**

#### **1. Women Empowerment;**

- ✓ Establish mentorship programs to support women in leadership positions.
- ✓ Provide training and capacity-building initiatives to enhance women's skills and confidence.
- ✓ Advocate for policies and legislation that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **2. Education;**

- ✓ Establish community-based schools and vocational training centers in underserved areas.
- ✓ Provide scholarships and financial assistance to promote girls' education.
- ✓ Conduct awareness campaigns to combat gender-based discrimination in schools and promote gender-sensitive teaching practices.

#### **3. Health;**

- ✓ Establish and strengthen healthcare facilities in underserved areas, with a focus on reproductive health and maternal care.
- ✓ Conduct regular health awareness campaigns to educate women and girls about their rights and available healthcare services.
- ✓ Train and empower community health workers to provide basic healthcare services and referrals.

#### **4. Gender-Based Violence Prevention;**

- ✓ Establish safe spaces and helplines for survivors of gender-based violence.
- ✓ Conduct community awareness campaigns to educate the public about the consequences of gender-based violence and promote respectful relationships.
- ✓ Collaborate with local law enforcement and legal aid organizations to ensure effective response and justice for survivors.

#### **5. Child Protection;**

- ✓ Establish child-friendly spaces in communities to provide psychosocial support and recreational activities for children.
- ✓ Train teachers, caregivers, and community members on child protection policies and practices.
- ✓ Strengthen child protection laws and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure their enforcement.

## **6. Food Security;**

- ✓ Promote climate-resilient and sustainable farming practices through training and support for farmers.
- ✓ Establish community gardens and promote home-based agriculture initiatives to improve food production and diversity.
- ✓ Collaborate with local farmers' associations and government agencies to improve access to markets and agricultural resources.

### **Implementation Plan:**

#### **1. Establishing Partnerships;**

- ❖ Identify and collaborate with local NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations working in the areas of women empowerment, education, health, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, and food security.



- ❖ Engage with community leaders and stakeholders to establish partnerships and ensure the participation of target beneficiaries.

## **2. Needs Assessment and Targeting:**

- ❖ Conduct a thorough needs assessment to identify specific requirements and challenges faced by women, children, and communities in terms of empowerment, education, health, gender-based violence, child protection, and food security.
- ❖ Develop specific targeting criteria to prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

## **3. Program Development and Implementation:**

- ❖ Develop evidence-based programs and initiatives tailored to address the identified needs and align with the overall objectives of Omaid Afghanistan Humanitarian Services.
- ❖ Ensure the inclusion of cross-cutting themes like gender equality, social inclusion, and sustainability in all program activities.

## **4. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- ❖ Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and impact of the implemented programs.
- ❖ Regularly assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the interventions and make necessary adjustments based on the findings.

This strategic plan outlines the roadmap for Omaid Afghanistan Humanitarian Services to promote women's empowerment, education, health, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, and food security in Afghanistan. By focusing on these critical areas, we aim to contribute to the overall development and well-being of Afghan women, children, and communities, creating a society where everyone can thrive and enjoy their rights. Through strategic partnerships, targeted interventions, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, we can achieve sustainable impact and improve the lives of vulnerable populations in Afghanistan.

## **THEMATIC AREAS:**

### **Health:**

The OAHS prioritizes health by establishing healthcare clinics and centers in all regions of Afghanistan, including hard-to-reach areas where access to healthcare is limited. The restrictive gender norms and the protracted crisis have had a significant impact on women and girls' ability to access life-saving reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health services. Afghanistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with 638 deaths per 100,000 births in 2017. Similarly, the infant mortality rate is 45 per 1,000 births, and the under-five mortality rate is 58 per 1,000 live births as of 2020. Unfortunately, only 37 percent of Afghan mothers receive postnatal care within two days of giving birth. The prevalence of child and early marriage, coupled with low contraception usage, has resulted in a high number of early teenage pregnancies. The adolescent birth rate is 62 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, and 20 percent of women surveyed aged 20-42 gave birth before the age of 18. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth, along with unsafe abortions, contribute to the leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 and 20-24, accounting for 64 percent and 69.9 percent of deaths in those age groups, respectively. The predicted increase in child marriage during the current crisis period further jeopardizes the health and survival of teenage girls and their newborns. Mental health outcomes in Afghanistan are also low due to various factors such as exposure to conflict, social trauma, displacement, economic stressors, and a lack of adequate support services. A study by the World Health Organization estimated that over two million Afghans suffer from mental health problems, including stress conditions, primarily resulting from the extended conflict. Moreover, refugees and those living in conflict-affected areas face even higher mental health stressors. Shockingly, approximately 77 percent of children needing mental health services are unable to access them, and the numbers are even more dire for adult and child undocumented refugees, with only six percent and three percent, respectively, able to access





mental health services. The closure of schools due to the crisis has also had an impact on the mental health of adolescent girls. However, mental health services are limited in Afghanistan, and cultural biases also create barriers to accessing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for the population.

### **Protection:**

The OAHS's protection efforts focus on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and ensuring child protection. GBV remains widespread in Afghanistan, and although there is limited data on prevalence, a health survey conducted by the World Bank in 2015 found that 56 percent of married women reported experiencing violence. Instances of intimate partner violence, child and early forced marriage, killings, sexual abuse, and trafficking of young boys are frequent but often underreported. Women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately affected by GBV, experiencing domestic violence at twice the rate of other women and facing unique forms of violence. The ongoing crisis has had severe consequences for girls and boys. Surveys have documented an increase in child marriages due to economic crises and humanitarian needs, with six percent of households reporting marriages of girls at an earlier age than expected. Child labor has also seen a dramatic upsurge in 2021, corresponding to increased poverty levels and economic insecurity.

### **FSAC:**

The OAHS aims to strengthen the coordination of emergency food security response planning, implementation, and monitoring by enhancing the role of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). Food security in Afghanistan is deeply gendered, with Afghan women disproportionately affected by food insecurity and more likely to skip meals. Women-headed households are particularly struggling, with nearly 100 percent of them facing insufficient food consumption, and 82 percent resorting to extreme measures to cope with food shortage, compared to 70 percent of male-headed households.

### **Women Empowerment:**

Women's empowerment plays a critical role in achieving sustainable development and social progress. By empowering women, their potential is unlocked, their rights are enhanced, and they can actively participate in decision-making processes at all levels. The benefits of women's empowerment include economic development, gender equality, improved health and well-being, increased social participation, and enhanced peace and security in communities. Strategies for women's empowerment include enhancing access to quality education, providing vocational training and skill development programs, creating economic opportunities through entrepreneurship training and access to credit, advocating for gender-responsive laws and policies, implementing comprehensive programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, promoting social and cultural change by challenging harmful gender norms and stereotypes and engaging communities and religious leaders in promoting women's rights and empowerment.

### **Livelihood:**





In Afghanistan, poverty rates were already high, with an estimated 47.3 percent of the population living in poverty in 2020. Since the new regime takeover, the situation has significantly deteriorated. Women, in particular, are disproportionately affected by the current economic crisis due to their low participation in the labor market. This economic insecurity hampers their ability to navigate and recover from shocks. Barriers such as low literacy rates, low levels of education completion, disapproval within the community of women working outside the home, and restrictions imposed by the DFA further hinder women's participation in the formal labor market.

### **Education:**

Access to education in Afghanistan, especially for girls, has been significantly impacted. In 2021, approximately four million children were out of school, with girls accounting for 60 percent of that number. While attendance rates for both girls and boys have decreased at all school levels and types due to the COVID-19 pandemic, girls' attendance has declined at a rate three times higher than that of boys at both secondary and university levels since the DFA takeover.



## COMPLETED PROJECTS:

NO	TYPE OF PROJECT	PROVINCE	DONOR	START / END DATE AND YEAR
1	Women's Empowerment through Vocational Training and Literacy Courses	Kundoz	 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
2	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters.	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018
3	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters.	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019
4	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters.	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020
5	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters.	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
6	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters, on the progress	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
7	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023
8	Supporting women's groups to knit sets of sweaters and hats for newborn babies and give health education to knitters	Kabul	 hope for the babies international	January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
9	NGOs/CSOs Capacity Support Project	Kabul		January 1 <sup>st</sup> till 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024