

SOZO

2022 Impact Report

From our country director

On behalf of my Sozo Kabul team—staff, teachers, workers, and students—I would like to sincerely express my deepest gratitude for your support and contributions to our SOZO organization in Kabul for serving the neediest communities in Afghanistan, mainly women and children, during the past several years of unrest, and especially during the current tough political and economic situation prevailing in our country.

Since August 15, 2021 until today we have been facing different security, political, social and other welfare challenges, which have badly affected all spheres of life and have forced a significant number of our young people to legally or illegally leave the country. Sadly, many of them have lost their lives before reaching their destination.

Besides all these challenges, the recent prohibition of women from their public work, education, medical and social gatherings has badly affected our female staff and students in our DBA and Skills programs. This forced us to update our existing contracts with different Ministries with a lot of difficulties, and unfortunately the problems have not been solved.

Currently we are working with around 8 to 9 hundred families in one small part of Kabul, who are mainly the Hazara minority and were forced to leave their native villages. They took refuge in Kabul with no hope of having a better life. Through our different programs, we have tried to serve them better and give them hope for the future. Our School and Training Center provides standard education for their children, skills training

programs provides education for their adults, and food packages and firewood provide humanitarian help. All these programs are financially supported by you kind people. You have made them happy, help them stay safe within their communities, improve their social relations with other poor families, and become hopeful for their children's future.

Thank you so much for all your friendly and unconditional support, which has a very constructive impact in improving lives of many people and communities.

Your sincere donations and support help the continuity of our commitment to serving different people and communities in this war torn country, who are still suffering from the continuation of unwanted wars and calamities.

I would like to thank you once again for all that you have done and donated through your sincere, generous, and honest donations for my people and country. May this letter serve as an appreciation of all of your support, for which you do not receive anything in return, except the feeling of morale and heart comfort.

Warm regards,

Mohammad Khan
and the Sozo Kabul Team



from left to right
Matin, Logistics Officer; **Haji Rafik**, Admin Manager; **Dr. Ahmad**, Assistant Country Director;
Mohammad Kahn, Country Director; **Kareem**, Liason Officer, **Mushtaq**, School Director;
Dr. Azimi, Training Center Director

Overview

61,600

pounds of firewood

distributed amongst needy families of Kabul during the worst Afghan winter in decades

1,575

winter clothing items

including coats, hats, and gloves given to elementary school students

600+

students in education initiatives

including elementary schools and adult-focused trade skill programs

47

staff and families

given stability through continued employment

150,600

meals served

as a part of school lunches and food distributions among families



Firewood distribution is vital to Afghans for cooking and heating during harsh winters

A story of hope.

Hear Salima's story of hope and change in her own words

My Name is Salima. I live in Qalay e Fathallah. I have four children, two of my children are in Sozo School.

Sozo School has helped Hajar, my eldest child, a lot. Teaching her very well, providing them lunch, supplies, and health support.

When my daughter Mahdia was in her 1st year, she had a health issue and when I shared this with Sozo School, they acted quick and helped us and now she is fine and okay.

Sozo School Team has helped us twice. Once in the month of Ramadan, they supported me in terms of food stuff such as flour, oil, rice, and beans. And the second time was when my husband was killed.

My husband was jobless in Kabul, and because he was jobless he went to the Samangan Province to work in the mines. He worked for about a month in the mines, and he was about to come back home because of Eid.

He called me to say that he would be home soon, but after his last call his phone was switched off.

Early the next day, we received a call that said my husband had been killed in Samangan Province.

I am homeless, I have four kids, I have no caretaker, and I have no one in Afghanistan to support or help me. None of my family members are in Afghanistan to be with me or help me. I have no one to help me and I have extreme economic problems. My situation is really difficult. It is hard to measure.

But thanks to Sozo School, my children were able to learn and receive lunch. We request those who support Sozo School to continue their support so that the children can continue their studies and learn.

We are satisfied with the services and assistance of Sozo School. We are happy and grateful to them. They supported us in our helplessness and poverty and we are extremely happy with them.





Finances

Total Income: \$475,091

Financial Breakdown

Programs: 77.5%

Plumbing and electrical trade school, DBA program, elementary school, food distribution

Leadership Development: 6.4%

Additional local partnership development

Crisis Response and Aid: 16.1%

Supplementary food and financial distribution to particularly needy families



What's next?

For the first time in nearly two years, Sozo was able to send two staff representatives to visit our programs in Kabul. The trip was significant for both our staff and our international team, and helped us gain a better understanding of how Sozo programs can continue to grow in the coming years.

We're proud and excited to say that women have returned to work in our primary school! Not many humanitarian organizations in Kabul have been able to employ women, and it is through the determination of our Afghan staff that we have received this permission. It is an

honor to not just support these women financially, but give them the dignity and empowerment of employment.

Unfortunately women have not been allowed back in our trade or businesses schools, as either staff or students. Our team in Kabul continues to advocate for their female neighbors and build relationships among local leaders.

Though things remain difficult, we are encouraged by the perseverance of our staff in Kabul and look forward to bringing hope and change to Afghanistan in 2023.

Thank you

for your part in bringing hope and
change to Afghanistan.