



**PROTECTING HUMAN
RIGHTS, ADVANCE DIALOGUE
& PROMOTE SOLIDARITY**

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Rome, Italy

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CDS-R PROFILE

CENTER FOR

DIALOGUE &

SOLIDARITY-ROME

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OVERVIEW

Since the political shift on **August 15, 2021**, Afghanistan has faced a multitude of challenges, leaving its citizens in a critical and isolated situation. The collapse of democratic structures has led to a pervasive sense of isolation, while the exclusion of educated individuals from key sectors such as academia and offices has contributed to the rise of institutional extremism within society. Fatigue from enduring the Taliban's stringent rules and witnessing the country's mismanagement has left society disillusioned with the political figures who have governed Afghanistan over the past two decades.

These political upheavals have compounded the dire economic and social crises gripping the nation. A food shortage has resulted in a **staggering 35% increase in food poverty**, pushing the poorest families to resort to further debt or the sale of assets just to survive. The shattered economy has left a vast majority of the population, **approximately 97%, reliant on humanitarian aid** for their basic needs. The combination of political turmoil, economic instability, and social hardships has placed an immense burden on the Afghan people, as they grapple with an uncertain future. Immediate and sustained efforts are crucial to address these interconnected crises and provide the necessary support and resources to rebuild a resilient Afghanistan.

The displacement of professionals and experts who had previously worked with national and international institutions has had a profound impact on Afghanistan. This disruption has not only affected individuals but has also impoverished the bureaucratic, academic, and social fabric that had been painstakingly built over the course of the past two decades. The loss of **experienced professionals** has left a void in various sectors, hindering the country's ability to effectively manage economic, governmental, political, and legal affairs.

Compounding the challenges is the absence of a comprehensive plan or specialized framework for the management and development of Afghanistan. This lack of strategic direction has left the international community and observers with mere speculations and opinions about the country's future. In the absence of a clear roadmap, uncertainty persists, further exacerbating the complex web of issues that Afghanistan faces.

Addressing these critical gaps and uncertainties is crucial for the stability and progress of Afghanistan. Efforts must be made to attract and retain skilled professionals, rebuild institutional capacity, and develop a comprehensive plan that encompasses economic, governmental, political, and legal aspects. By doing so, Afghanistan can pave the way for a more secure and prosperous future, overcoming the current challenges and reclaiming its position as a resilient and self-sustaining nation.

In response to the prevailing situation in Afghanistan and in anticipation of future challenges, a collective of young, professional Afghans who have actively contributed to the country's development alongside the international community over the past two decades have united under a shared vision. Together, they have established an independent, non-political, and non-profit association known as the **Center for Dialogue and Solidarity - Rome (CDS-R)**.

The primary objective of CDS-R is to focus on studying, disseminating, and raising awareness about the current and future realities of Afghanistan. It aims to find effective ways to help Afghanistan transition from its current state to a democratic country by providing analytical data, development awareness, promoting collaboration, and facilitating dialogue among diverse groups of people who possess deep knowledge of the country and can make a positive impact both internationally and within Afghanistan. Additionally, the organization aims to identify effective ways to provide essential support to Afghans who are facing challenging circumstances amidst the current difficult situation.

Comprised of professionally qualified Afghans residing abroad, many of whom have received training in various countries across the globe, CDS-R brings together a wealth of expertise and international perspectives. This diverse and knowledgeable team is dedicated to working collaboratively and leveraging their collective experiences to address the pressing needs of Afghanistan. Through its initiatives, CDS-R strives to foster dialogue, solidarity, and understanding, not only within Afghanistan but also on a global scale. By engaging with stakeholders, raising awareness, and implementing practical solutions, the organization aims to contribute to the long-term development and stability of Afghanistan, ultimately helping to build a brighter future for its people.

Focus area.

Human Rights

Women Education

Collaborations and dialog

PROBLEM STATEMENT



Since the Taliban takeover in August, Afghanistan's human rights and humanitarian crisis has rapidly escalated. Women's rights and media freedom have been rolled back, with most girls' schools closed and women prohibited from working in many government jobs and certain other areas. Journalists have been beaten and detained, leading to media outlets closing or reducing reporting. The food crisis has become a major issue for the people of Afghanistan, with nearly half of the population facing food insecurity.



The current situation in Afghanistan poses significant challenges in terms of human rights, food crisis, education, and women's rights, with immediate and long-term implications for the region and the international community. These issues, intertwined with security and immigration concerns, require urgent attention to address the following key problems:

Human Rights: The change of regime has resulted in a severe regression of human rights in Afghanistan. Fundamental freedoms, particularly for women and minority groups, are being violated, impacting their safety, well-being, and ability to participate in society. The suppression of dissent, restriction of media freedom, and **targeted attacks on human rights defenders** further exacerbate the crisis.

Food Crisis: Afghanistan is facing a dire food crisis, with a significant portion of the population experiencing food insecurity. Widespread poverty, a shattered economy, and the impact of conflict and natural disasters have contributed to the shortage of food and the inability of vulnerable communities to meet their basic nutritional needs. The situation is likely to worsen, leading to **malnutrition, hunger-related health issues, and a heightened risk of social unrest**.

Education: The gains made in education over the past two decades are at risk of being eroded. The closure of schools, particularly affecting girls' education, limits access to quality learning opportunities. This not only perpetuates gender inequality but also **hampers the long-term development and human capital of Afghanistan**, hindering its ability to rebuild and compete in the global arena.

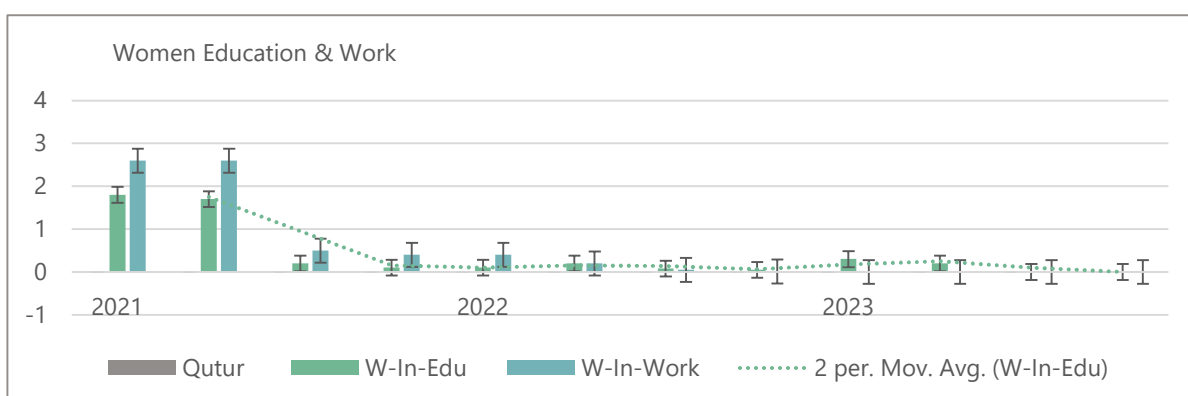
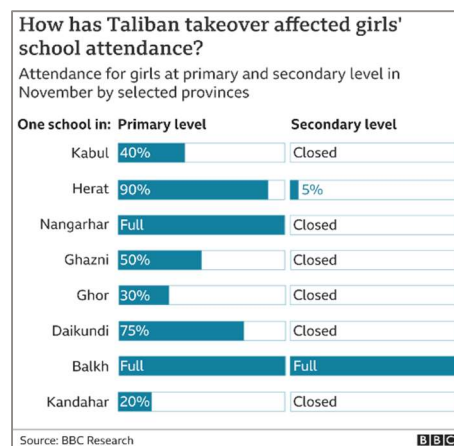
Women's Rights and Work Opportunities: The systematic exclusion of women from work and public life has severe consequences for gender equality and economic development. Restrictions on women's employment and education opportunities undermine their agency, contributing to a cycle of poverty and limited social progress. The loss of skilled women professionals and experts further hampers the country's capacity to rebuild and sustainably develop.

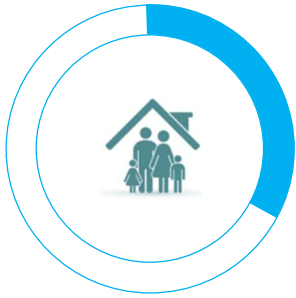
IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS ON THE REGION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

The ongoing crisis in Afghanistan has immediate and long-term implications beyond its borders. The volatile security situation and potential spillover of conflict can destabilize neighboring countries, exacerbate regional tensions, and provide fertile ground for extremist ideologies to flourish. The displacement of Afghan citizens due to insecurity, along with the potential for mass migration, poses significant humanitarian and social challenges for neighboring countries and the international community at large.

Moreover, the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan has the potential to create a power vacuum, allowing terrorist organizations to find safe havens and plan attacks. This not only threatens regional security but also has global implications, given the interconnectedness of the world today. The potential for increased international terrorism, trafficking, and the spread of extremist ideologies necessitates urgent international attention and concerted efforts to mitigate these risks.

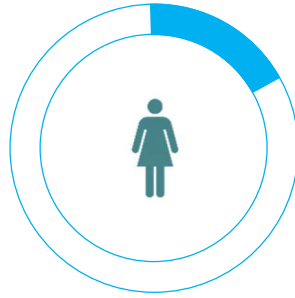
Addressing the human rights, food crisis, education, and women's rights challenges in Afghanistan is crucial not only for the well-being and future of the **Afghan people but also for regional stability and global security**. A comprehensive approach involving international cooperation, humanitarian aid, diplomatic efforts, and support for sustainable development is needed to address these pressing issues and prevent further deterioration of the situation.





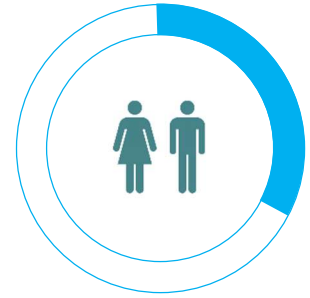
12.62M

Families living under poverty



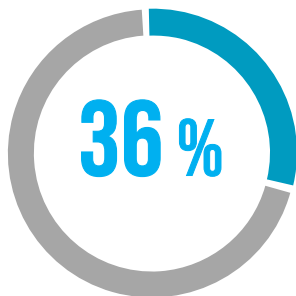
2.51M

Women have been affected by the closure of their schools.



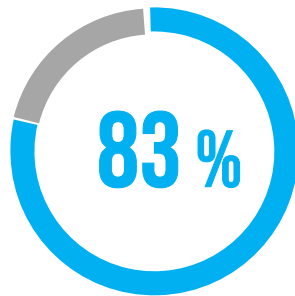
7.12M

Afghan youth have lost hope for their future.



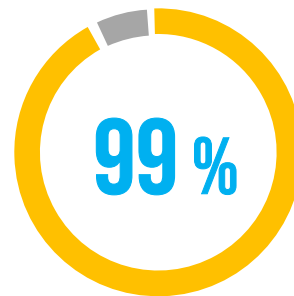
People

Displacement Internationally



Skilled Resources

Left the country or removed from their jobs.



Women

Removed from their jobs.

VISION



Our vision is to empower Afghanistan by adopting cohesion, solidarity, and social welfare, promoting a culture of lawfulness, meaningful dialogue, and sustainable peace. We envision an Afghanistan where human rights are protected, individuals live in safety and dignity, and everyone has equal opportunities for progress and contribution.



Our vision is to foster cohesion, solidarity, and social welfare in Afghanistan, promoting a culture of lawfulness, facilitating meaningful dialogue, and consolidating sustainable peace between people, while advocating for non-violence as a fundamental principle. We envision an Afghanistan where human rights are respected and protected, where every individual, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background, can live in safety and dignity. We strive for a society that values inclusivity, diversity, and equality, where every person has the opportunity to fulfill their potential and contribute to the nation's progress.

Central to our vision is the establishment of a law-abiding culture that upholds justice, fairness, and accountability. We aim to promote the rule of law, ensuring that all citizens are treated equally and have access to a fair and impartial justice system. Through advocacy, legal empowerment, and community engagement, we seek to build trust and confidence in the legal institutions, adopting social cohesion and harmony.

Dialogue plays a crucial role in our vision, as we believe in the power of constructive and respectful communication. By facilitating dialogue between different stakeholders, including government authorities, civil society organizations, community leaders, and marginalized groups, we aim to bridge divides, address grievances, and find peaceful and inclusive solutions to societal challenges. We envision a society where open and meaningful dialogue is valued, and differences are celebrated as sources of strength and collective progress.

Our vision also embraces the concept of social welfare, recognizing the importance of meeting the basic needs of all individuals. We work towards building a society that provides essential services, including access to education, healthcare, clean water, and food security. By addressing the food crisis and investing in quality education, particularly for women and girls, we aim to empower individuals, alleviate poverty, and ensure a brighter future for all.

In pursuing this vision, we strive to create an Afghanistan that is resilient, secure, and prosperous, while actively contributing to regional stability and global peace. We believe that by promoting cohesion, solidarity, and social welfare, and by advocating for a culture of non-violence, we can forge a path toward sustainable peace, social justice, and shared prosperity for all Afghans.

MISSION



Our mission is to empower Afghanistan by promoting civil and human rights, fostering solidarity, dialogue, and social welfare. We advocate for equal opportunities, organize cultural and academic activities, and work towards a harmonious society. Together with our partners, we strive for lasting peace, justice, and prosperity in Afghanistan.



Our mission is to work diligently towards achieving civil and human rights goals, development solidarity and social welfare, promoting dialogue and political stability, organizing and managing academic, cultural, and artistic activities of collective interest, and advocating for equal opportunities and mutual aid initiatives. We are committed to upholding the principles of civil and human rights, actively working to ensure the protection and promotion of these fundamental rights for all individuals in Afghanistan. Through advocacy, legal support, and awareness campaigns, we strive to create an environment where every person is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.

Solidarity and social welfare lie at the heart of our mission. We aim to build a society where mutual support and cooperation are cherished values, where no one is left behind. By providing assistance, resources, and opportunities to vulnerable communities, we work towards reducing social inequalities and advancing an inclusive and compassionate society. Dialogue and political stability are vital for sustainable peace and progress. We seek to facilitate constructive and inclusive dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including governmental authorities, civil society organizations, and community members. By promoting open discussions, understanding, and cooperation, we aim to contribute to a stable and harmonious society that respects differing perspectives and values peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Organizing and managing academic, cultural, and artistic activities are essential components of our mission. By promoting education, raising intellectual growth, and preserving cultural heritage, we aim to enrich the lives of individuals and enhance the collective knowledge and identity of the Afghan people. Through artistic expressions and cultural events, we celebrate diversity and promote cultural exchange, strengthening social cohesion and unity.

Central to our mission is the promotion of equal opportunities and mutual aid initiatives. We strive to create an environment where individuals have equal access to resources, opportunities, and support, regardless of their background. By implementing initiatives that foster collaboration, empowerment, and self-sufficiency, we aim to create a society where everyone can thrive and contribute to the collective well-being.

In pursuing our mission, we collaborate with local and international partners by providing analytical and statistical information, engage with communities, and advocate for policies that uphold our values. We

are dedicated to making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of the Afghan people, contributing to their well-being, and working towards a brighter future characterized by peace, justice, and prosperity.

ROADMAP

DATA & ANALYSIS

Collect and analyze data to inform decision-making and develop targeted interventions aligned with our vision and mission.

1

2

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PLANNING & LEGAL

Strategically plan initiatives and adhere to legal frameworks, ensuring well-structured interventions grounded in justice, fairness, and accountability

BUDGETING & RESOURCING

Optimize resource allocation and budgeting to maximize impact in addressing key issues such as human rights, food crises, education, and women's work rights.

IMPLEMENTATION

Collaborate with local communities, government authorities, and civil society organizations to effectively execute projects on the ground, positively impacting the lives of Afghan citizens.

SUSTAINABILITY

Establish initiatives and programs that promote self-sufficiency, building local capacities, adopting community engagement, and forming partnerships for a sustainable and prosperous Afghanistan.

OUR ROADMAP

A roadmap is a strategic plan that outlines the path and key areas of focus for an organization to achieve its goals and objectives. It serves as a guide for decision-making and resource allocation, ensuring that efforts are coordinated and aligned with the organization's vision and mission. The roadmap is essential for our NGO because it provides a clear framework and direction for our activities. It helps us prioritize our efforts, allocate resources effectively, and work towards achieving our vision and mission in a systematic and structured manner.

The roadmap is designed to support and advance our vision and mission by addressing critical areas of focus. Let's explore how each key area of the roadmap contributes to our overarching goals:

1. Data and Analysis: This area allows us to collect, analyze, and utilize data to inform our decision-making. By understanding the current realities and needs of Afghanistan, we can develop targeted interventions and strategies that align with our vision and mission.

2. Planning and Legal: Through strategic planning and adherence to legal frameworks, we ensure that our initiatives are well-structured, compliant, and grounded in principles of justice, fairness, and accountability. This area helps us operate within a framework that supports our mission and promotes the rule of law.

3. Resourcing and Budgeting: Effective allocation of resources and budgeting enables us to maximize the impact of our initiatives. By carefully managing our resources, we can optimize our efforts to address key issues such as human rights, food crises, education, and women's work rights, which are integral to our vision and mission.

4. Implementation: This area focuses on the successful execution of our projects on the ground. By collaborating with local communities, government authorities, and civil society organizations, we can implement our initiatives effectively, ensuring that they have a tangible and positive impact on the lives of Afghan citizens.

5. Sustainability: Sustainability is a key consideration in our roadmap. We aim to establish initiatives and programs that have long-term benefits and contribute to the self-sufficiency of the Afghan people. By building local capacities, promoting community engagement, and adopting partnerships, we work towards creating a sustainable and prosperous Afghanistan.

Overall, the roadmap helps us stay focused, organized, and strategic in our efforts. It ensures that we are addressing the critical areas outlined in our vision and mission, while also providing a clear plan for achieving our goals and making a lasting impact in Afghanistan.

Regularly review and reassess the roadmap, incorporating new insights and adapting strategies as the situation evolves. Collaboration, transparency, and accountability should be key principles guiding the roadmap's implementation, ensuring that the efforts effectively address the identified challenges in Afghanistan and contribute to sustainable change.

OUR CORE VALUE

At our organization, we hold a set of core values that guide our actions, decisions, and interactions. These values represent our fundamental beliefs and principles, and they are crucial in shaping our approach to achieving our mission and vision. Our values are not only a reflection of who we are as an organization but also serve as a compass for our work in empowering Afghanistan and its people.

Why Values Are Important:

- 1. Guidance:** Our values provide us with a clear sense of direction and purpose. They serve as a guiding framework that helps us navigate challenges, make informed decisions, and stay focused on our mission, even in times of uncertainty or adversity.
- 2. Alignment:** Values ensure that our actions and initiatives align with our vision and mission. They are a consistent and unified foundation that brings together our diverse team, partners, and stakeholders, promoting a shared understanding and commitment to our common goals.
- 3. Ethical Foundation:** Our values form the ethical foundation of our organization. They define how we conduct ourselves, interact with others, and operate in the communities we serve. Upholding these values ensures that we maintain integrity, transparency, and accountability in all aspects of our work.
- 4. Organizational Culture:** Values shape our organizational culture and define the way we work together as a team. They foster collaboration, inclusivity, and respect, creating an environment that encourages innovation, creativity, and continuous improvement.
- 5. Stakeholder Trust:** Our values contribute to building trust and credibility with our stakeholders, including beneficiaries, partners, and the wider community. Consistently living our values helps us establish and maintain strong relationships, promoting long-term engagement and support for our mission.

Our Values:

- 1. Empowerment:** We believe in empowering the people of Afghanistan to actively participate in shaping their own future.
- 2. Collaboration:** We recognize the power of collaboration and the strength that comes from working together.
- 3. Integrity:** We uphold the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct in all our endeavors.
- 4. Inclusivity:** We value inclusivity and diversity as essential components of a vibrant and resilient society.
- 5. Adaptability:** We embrace flexibility, innovation, and continuous learning.
- 6. Impact-driven:** We are driven by a commitment to making a tangible and lasting impact on the lives of the Afghan people.
- 7. Compassion:** We approach our work with compassion, empathy, and a deep sense of care for the well-being of the Afghan people.

These values guide us in our pursuit of empowering Afghanistan, encouraging cohesion, and working toward a secure, prosperous, and inclusive future for all its citizens.

OUR TEAM



Our team is a group of young professionals from diverse backgrounds who work together towards building a sustainable and secure Afghanistan, where all people can live peacefully.



As a dedicated team of professionals from diverse backgrounds, we are united by a shared vision of a sustainable and secure Afghanistan. Our core values embody the principles that guide our work, ensuring that we make a meaningful impact on the communities we serve. Collaboration and teamwork are at the heart of our approach. We recognize that by leveraging the diverse expertise and perspectives of each team member, we can achieve greater results and address complex challenges more effectively. Together, we foster an environment of respect, trust, and open communication, valuing the contributions of every individual.

Integrity, honesty, and transparency form the foundation of our work. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards, ensuring that our actions align with our values. By maintaining transparency in our processes, decision-making, and interactions, we strive to build and sustain trust with the communities we engage with.

Inclusivity, diversity, and equality are central to our mission. We believe in creating an inclusive society where everyone has an equal opportunity to participate and contribute. We actively promote diversity, recognizing the strength that comes from embracing different perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. We work tirelessly to ensure that marginalized voices are heard and represented in our initiatives.

We embrace innovation, creativity, and flexibility as essential elements of our approach. Recognizing the ever-evolving challenges facing Afghanistan, we remain adaptable and open to new ideas and approaches. We encourage and support innovative solutions that can drive sustainable change and improve the lives of individuals and communities.

Ultimately, our core values are grounded in our unwavering commitment to promoting peace, security, and prosperity in Afghanistan. We are driven by the belief that by working together, we can overcome the obstacles that hinder progress and create a brighter future for all Afghans. With determination and dedication, we strive to make a lasting and positive impact on the lives of individuals, while contributing to the overall development and stability of our nation.

HOW WE WORK

To ensure effective management of our work, our team is structured into two key components: the **NGO Board and the Operation Team**. This structure enables us to streamline our efforts and maximize our impact in line with our core values and mission.

The NGO Board, **consisting of six dedicated individuals**, plays a crucial role in establishing partnerships, engaging with donors, and ensuring the overall strategic direction of our organization. Drawing on their diverse backgrounds and expertise, the board members bring invaluable insights and guidance to our initiatives. They work closely with external stakeholders to forge collaborations, secure funding, and build strong relationships that support our mission.

Complementing the NGO Board is our Operation Team, responsible for overseeing and implementing the on-the-ground activities of our organization. This team takes charge of communicating with communities, collecting accurate and relevant information, and delivering much-needed assistance to those in need across Afghanistan. A core focus of the Operation Team is providing essential support and **services to advance women's education**, recognizing the transformative impact it can have on individuals and society as a whole.

Both the NGO Board and the Operation Team are aligned in their commitment to our core values of collaboration, integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. They work in tandem to ensure that our programs and initiatives are effectively managed, guided by our strategic plan and the evolving needs of the Afghan people. Through the collaborative efforts of the NGO Board and the Operation Team, we strive to create a sustainable and secure Afghanistan. Our collective dedication to cohesion, solidarity, and social welfare drives us to promote a law-abiding culture, facilitate dialogue, and consolidate peace between people. Together, we are committed to improving an environment that upholds civil and human rights, encourages dialogue, supports education, and empowers women, recognizing that these efforts have immediate and long-term impacts on Afghanistan, the region, and the wider world.

By harnessing the strengths of our diverse team, we are confident in our ability to navigate the complex challenges ahead and make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of the Afghan people.

Volunteer Team:

In addition to our dedicated NGO Board and Operation Team, we are grateful for the invaluable support and contribution of our volunteer team members. These passionate individuals generously offer their time, skills, and expertise to help us promote our activities and engage with individuals who are willing to support Afghanistan.

Our volunteer team plays a crucial role in expanding our network and connecting us with like-minded individuals, organizations, and communities who share our vision and are eager to make a difference. They actively participate in spreading awareness about our mission, advocating for our causes, and mobilizing resources for our initiatives.

Through their efforts, our volunteer team helps us extend our reach and impact, allowing us to touch the lives of more people and make a greater positive change in Afghanistan. Their commitment to our shared goals of adopting cohesion, solidarity, and social welfare amplifies our collective voice and strengthens our mission.

We deeply appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer team members, as they exemplify the power of individuals coming together to create meaningful and sustainable change. Their selfless contributions play a vital role in building a brighter future for Afghanistan, one that upholds human rights, promotes dialogue, supports education, and empowers women.

Together, with the support of our volunteer team and the collective efforts of our organization, we are determined to create a secure, prosperous, and inclusive Afghanistan, where the potential of all its people can be realized.