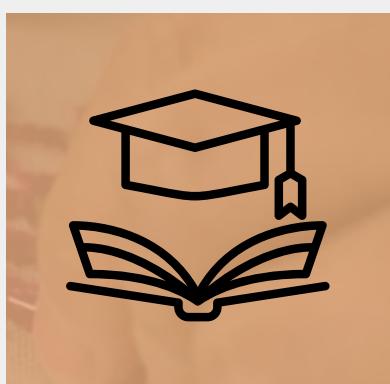
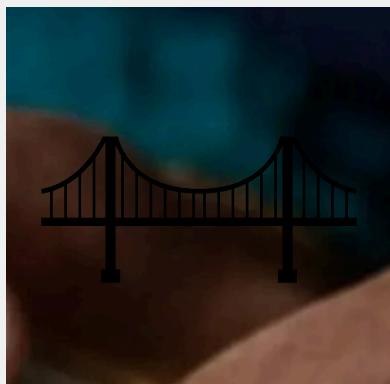




Afghan Women Support
Empowerment through education and work

Annual Report

Annual report on how we are
empowering girls and women in
Afghanistan through
Education and Work





2025: Resilience, Empowerment and Expansion

Throughout 2025, women in Afghanistan continued to face severe restrictions. The ban on girls' education beyond Grade 6 remained in force, controls on women's mobility intensified, and human rights organisations increasingly described these policies as gender apartheid.

In December 2025, the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in The Hague ruled that the Taliban's treatment of women constitutes a crime against humanity. These challenges were further exacerbated by a nationwide internet shutdown imposed in September.

Despite these conditions, the students, volunteers, and local staff of Afghan Women Support showed extraordinary resilience and commitment. In 2025, we welcomed James and Robin as coordinators of the English Bridging Programme, and our global volunteer network grew to 35 educators worldwide.

Responding to the psychological burden faced by students, Afghan Women Support launched a psychological support programme in April 2025. Volunteer clinical psychologists now provide individual and group sessions while training local women as peer supporters.

Alongside the continued growth of the Medical Programme, Afghan Women Support sustained and diversified its educational initiatives. Students developed new skills through creative projects such as social media and graphic design, and a student-led Robotics class was launched, reflecting the agency and leadership emerging within the community.

Afghan Women Support remains committed to providing a safe, empowering space where women in Afghanistan can learn, connect, and persevere despite ongoing adversity.





AWS in Figures

Students

130 Students



100 English program, 30 Robotics

Volunteers

30 Volunteers



20 From Switzerland, 10 international

Donation

26 600 CHF Donated 2025



Paid Stuff

20 paid stuff (teachers, coordinators, guards, tailors) in Afghanistan





Voices of volunteers



"These classes give these bright and talented young women a place to talk and learn. I am inspired every week by their determination and intelligence"

Elaine O'Brien

Teacher of AWS

"Education is the key to building lasting change and empowering women in Afghanistan."



Robin James

Education, Curricula,
Volunteer Recruitment



"Creativity is a tool for empowerment. It gives Afghan women a voice to express themselves and shape their own narratives."

Astha Sahu

Social Media Lead



Voices of students



“These classes are like light for our future. We can't go to school, but through Afghan Women Support we have hope again”

Freshta

English Bridging Student



Suhaila

Robotics student and teacher



“I am very happy to participate in these classes because I can study with Afghan girls from across the country. Our teachers are supportive and very kind.”

Tamana

English Student



Voices of tailors



“Thanks to my job as a tailor I feel independent”

Soraya

Tailor

“This handicraft place “karga” is like my second home. I have a safe space, where I can share my worries with my colleagues”



Neginā

Tailor



“Thanks to my work as a tailor at AWS, I can meet my friends at work. There I have a safe space and I can talk about my worries .

Additionally, I can support my children and be independent.”

Rabia

Tailor



English Bridging Program



In 2025, the Bridging Program ensured continuous access to education for girls barred from school. Thirty-five students received monthly internet packages to join six active projects. Volunteer teachers from the Global North offered daily and weekly English lessons, while Afghan female teachers mentored students in digital classrooms, building strong learning communities.

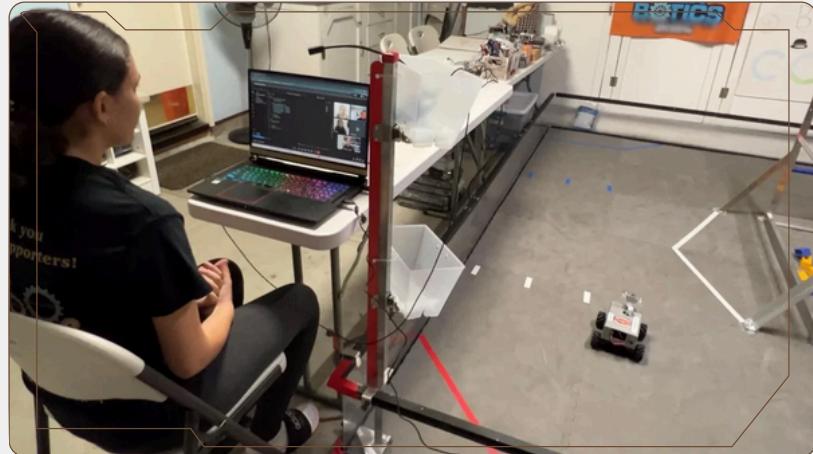


Handicrafts & Design – Creativity Meets Empowerment

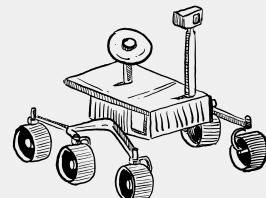


In our atelier in Kabul, 5-10 women – including illiterate women and widows – found a safe and creative environment to learn, sew and earn income.

They produce hand-made items such as shirts, bags and cushions sold in Switzerland. Designs are developed collaboratively and refined continuously.

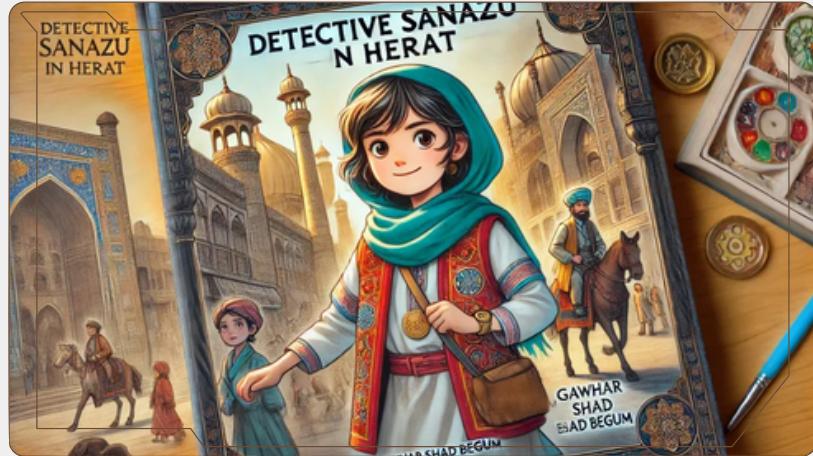


Robotics & Mathematics - Technology Education for Girls



Since October 2024, ten Afghan girls have joined weekly robotics and mathematics classes taught by an Afghan female teacher – a powerful example of local leadership.

AWS finances internet packages so students can attend regularly and learn coding and problem-solving skills through creative projects.



Comic Project – Rewriting Narratives

In collaboration with Flowers for the Future (San Diego), AWS launched the preparatory phase of Sanazu, a comic project connecting 60 students from Afghanistan (Nangarhar), Switzerland (Zurich), and the USA (San Diego). Together they develop a historically grounded, artistically rich comic that reimagines female role models in Afghan history. A highlight of 2024 was AWS's panel at Comic-Con San Diego, where the project received international attention.

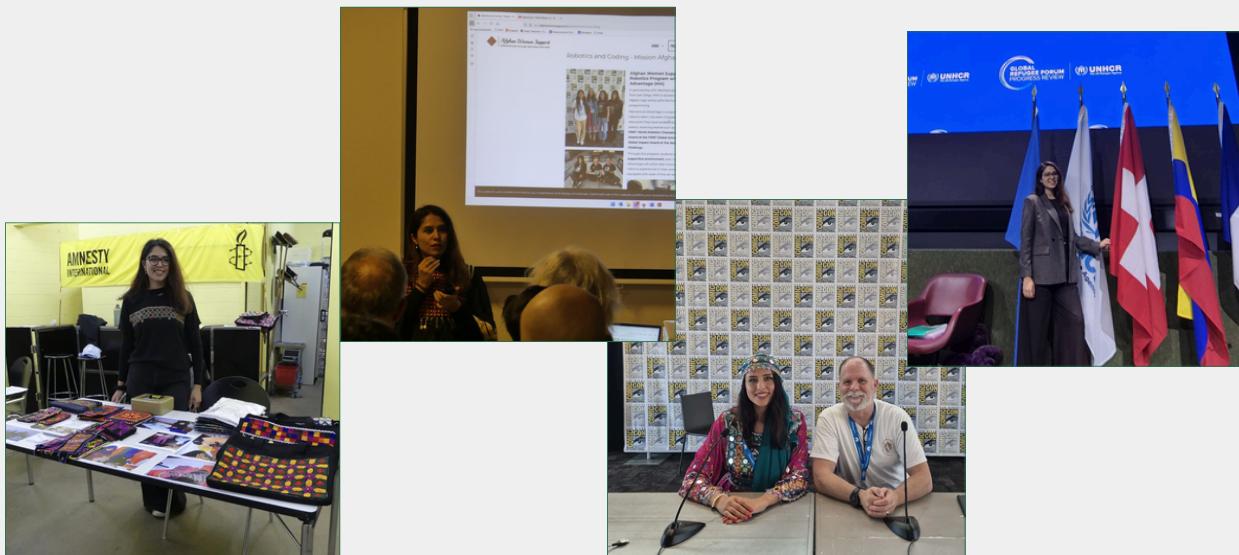


Psychological Support for Women/Girls in Afghanistan

Starting in April 2025, AWS launched a digital mental-health program providing group and individual sessions led by qualified psychologists and psychiatrists from Switzerland, Austria and India. The project trains local women as peer supporters and promotes emotional resilience while challenging stigma around mental health.



International Representation & Advocacy



Advocacy is central to AWS's mission. When Afghan women are excluded from education and public life, representing their voices at international forums is essential. Through its engagements, AWS advocates for rights, builds alliances and mobilises support for sustainable education.

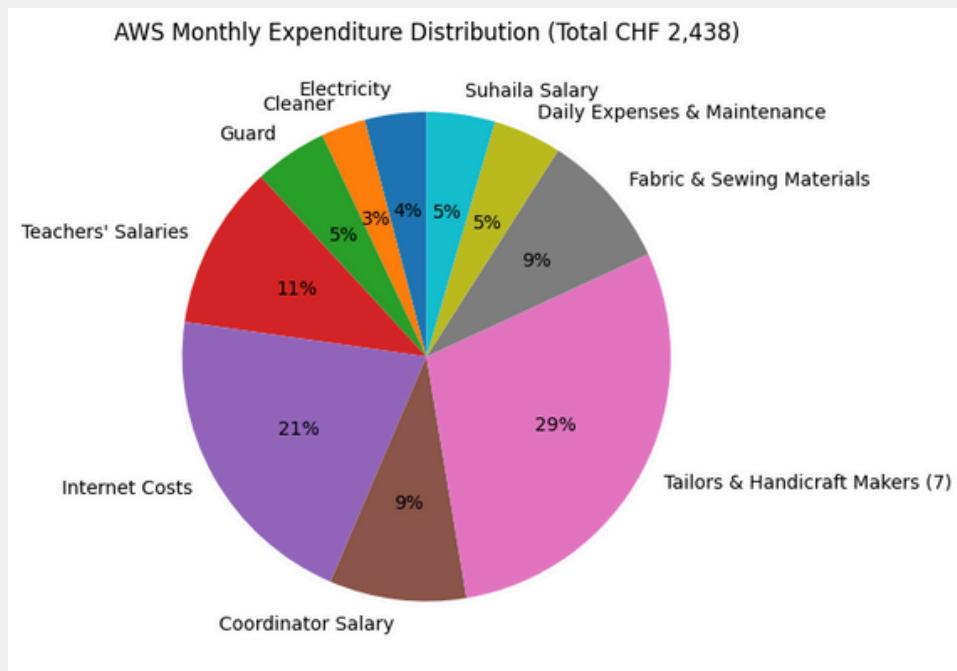
Key Engagements

- Amnesty International Panel, Delémont (Switzerland) – women's rights under Taliban rule.
- Comic-Con San Diego (USA) – presentation of the Sanazu Comic Project with Flowers for the Future
- Amnesty English Group, Zurich (Switzerland) – creative advocacy for Afghan women.
- University of Fribourg (Switzerland) – academic presentation on feminist education and liberation pedagogy.
- Liechtenstein – Dr. Maiwand Ahmadsai on health education for Afghan women and girls.
- UNHCR GRF Progress Review, Bern (11 Nov 2025) – high-level panel with DEZA, SEM and UNHCR on refugee education and pledges.

AWS was officially part of the Swiss delegation for the Global Refugee Forum 2025 and attended at the UNHCR PR (15–17 Dec 2025) in Geneva to announce its pledge to expand education for displaced and marginalised women.



Financial Transparency



Every contribution has a direct impact.

- CHF 20 = 1 month of internet for a student
- CHF 150 = 1 month stipend for a teacher
- CHF 250 = monthly rent for the handicrafts workshop

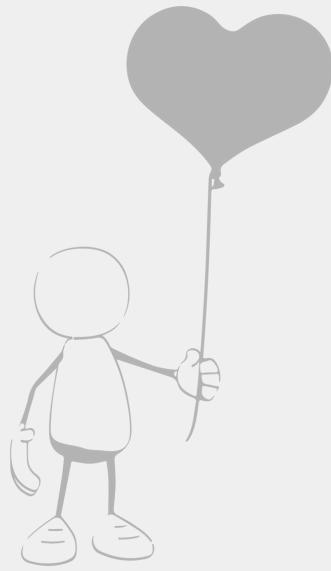
2025 Expenditure Structure

- 50 % Programs (education, medical, handicrafts)
- 40 % Infrastructure (internet, technology)
- 10 % Administration (admin expense, bank and transfer charges)

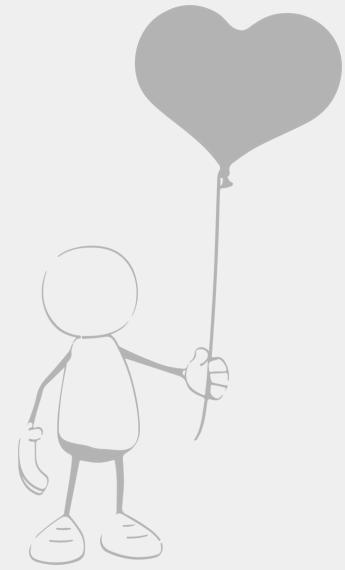
90% of our expenses directly support people – including teachers, students, artisans, coordinators, and essential services that enable education and safe working environments.



Outlook



- Expansion of the digital mental-health program and training of >30 peer supporters.
 - Expansion of English Bridging Programme with more volunteers and paid teachers.
 - Expansion of robotics courses to >30 girls.
 - Doubling the number of handicrafts workshops.
 - Advocacy with UNESCO for formal recognition of AWS learning certificates.
 - New board members: Elaine O'Brien, James and Robin
-
- In 2025, the Medical Sciences programme within AWS expanded significantly and will transition into a Foundation under the 'Her Path' framework in 2026. This change will enable appropriate governance of substantial funding supporting a medical school in Kabul, while allowing AWS to sharpen its focus on the English Bridging Programme and the Bag Project. These initiatives emphasise connected, mentor-led teaching and strong teacher-student relationships, and a grassroots approach that fosters meaningful student engagement, flexibility, and personalised learning journeys.



**“With hope and determination,
we continue our mission”**

– Selai Balkhi, Founder and President, Afghan Women Support



Legal Statement

This report was approved by the Board of Afghan Women Support on January 2026.
It has not been audited.

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Board of Directors

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