

October 2017 Featured Grantee: Sahar: Early Marriage Prevention



Afghanistan

Introducing Sahar

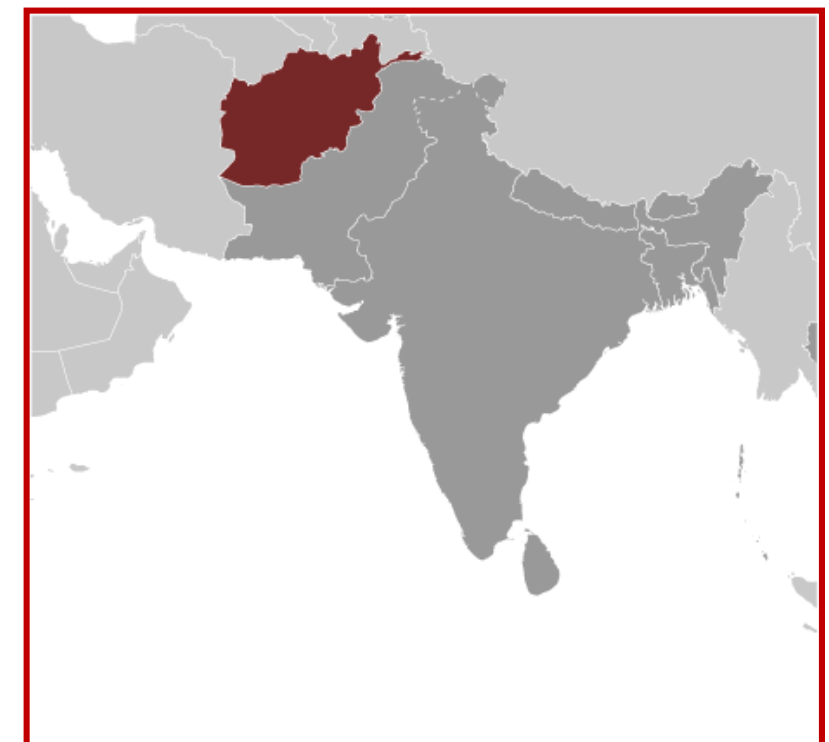
Sahar's mission is to create educational opportunities in Afghanistan that empower and inspire children and their families to build peaceful, just, and life-affirming communities.



Where in the world?

Afghanistan is located in Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran.

- Population of approximately 34 million people
- 34 provinces made up of many different ethnic groups
- 63 percent of Afghanistan's population is under age 24.
- Despite gains toward building a stable central government, the Taliban still considers itself the rightful government of Afghanistan.



What are we supporting?

DFW's one-year grant of \$50,000 enables the second phase of Sahar's Early Marriage Prevention Initiative.

As a result of the DFW grant, the project, which educates girls on their rights with a goal to keep them in school, will be expanded into two additional schools. The curriculum was designed by Afghans, for Afghans, while also incorporating innovative practices of American education. It is the only such curriculum that exists for an Afghan context.

Direct Impact: 500 Afghan girls, grades 5-12.

**Indirect Impact: 3,600 family members
and community leaders**

Life Challenges of the Women Served

- There is a dramatic dropout rate for girls around 12-13 years old due to them being forced into early marriage.
- In addition to limiting education, early marriage can lead to complications of pregnancy and childbirth, which are the leading cause of death in young women aged 15-19.
- Cultural traditions, lack of education and low socioeconomic status contribute to the sustained practice of early marriage.



Budget

How DFW's grant of \$50,000 will be used:

Item		Total
Transport	Fuel and maintenance of transport to project sites.	\$2,850
Communications	Cell phone Top-up cards, internet service.	\$1,500
Office	Office and curriculum supplies and materials, building maintenance, equipment maintenance, office rent.	\$3,730
Utilities	Electric, gas, heating fuel, misc. repairs, classroom heating and cooling.	\$3,375
Personnel	Afghan Project Manager, Sahar Afghan Fellow Manager, two Early Marriage Trainers, Financial Accountant, Early Marriage Monitor and Evaluation, three drivers, three guards, guest speaker fees, graduation ceremony, staff lunches	\$38,545
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$50,000

About the Featured Grantee

Sahar was founded in 2001 by Julia Bolz, a Seattle attorney dedicated to building bridges between the U.S. and Afghanistan after 9/11. Originally called Ayni, it was first dedicated to working with school children in both nations. In 2009, seeing the need for increased access to education for girls in Afghanistan, Bolz incorporated the project into a 501(c)(3) to build schools in the country, replacing those that fell into disrepair or were destroyed during Taliban rule.



About the Featured Grantee

- Sahar has built 13 schools in Afghanistan, which educate 18,000 girls annually.
- Sahar serves 1,500 girls a year with Computer Literacy Programs. Since beginning the computer programs, they have maintained an 80% graduation rate.
- Sahar's teaching training center has graduated hundreds of teachers, more than 70% of whom are women, giving thousands of Afghan girls access to education.



Share Your Thoughts

1. Do you think it is possible to overcome long-term cultural practices surrounding early marriage?
2. How do you think this project will help promote self-sufficiency for women?
3. What effect could increased education opportunities have on Afghanistan's economy?



Changing the world one dinner at a time

October's Sustained Grantee: Fistula Foundation

The Fistula Foundation's mission is to raise awareness of and funding for obstetric fistula repair, prevention, and educational programs worldwide.

DFW's sustained funding of \$20,000 per year for three years provides previously unavailable access to life-changing fistula repair surgery, including pre- and post-operative care, for women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2015, women in Guinea in 2016, and women in South Sudan in 2017.

**Direct Impact: 135 women
(45 in each country)
Indirect Impact: 405**

