



## **DINING FOR WOMEN**

### **The Razia Jan Institute**

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#### **Interim Progress Report Content**

**Reporting on Period: June 2019 — December 2019**

Grantee: Razia's Ray of Hope

Grant Amount: \$41,040

Grant Date: May 2019

Grant Funds Spent: \$23,012

**1. Please provide the following information:**

- A. Organization Name – Razia's Ray of Hope
- B. Project Title – Funding the salaries of the doctors, nurses and midwife faculty who provide the clinical training for the midwifery students.
- C. Grant Amount - \$41,040
- D. Contact Person – Monica Hinojos-Capes, Executive Director, [mhc@raziasrayofhope.org](mailto:mhc@raziasrayofhope.org), 617.256.5835

**2. Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve.**

The Dining for Women grant underwrote the salaries of the doctors, nurses, and midwife faculty who provide the clinical training for the midwifery students. Razia's Ray of Hope (RRH) has been able to accomplish all the grant goals for stated period. Support funded the medical staff, training midwives, and critical program team members that taught the midwife trainees preparing them with not only educational tools but rigorous hands on training bolstering even the basic skills our midwives-in-training receive. The grant supports achieving our goal of graduating 100% of our class, with 20 young women in spring 2021.

**3. Has funding changed for this project? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?**

We also applied for funding for Razia Jan Institute from the Khaled Hosseini Foundation, and that was focused on another aspect of programming for the institute, which funded

midwifery equipment, medical supplies, and a computer lab used by the midwifery students.

**4. Is your organization or project situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant project staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?**

Start with RJI stayed the same with exceptions from one teacher to another. Since we have been granted these funds, we have a new Executive Director, Monica Hinojos-Capes. The former Executive Director, Patti Quigley is now a member of the Board of Directors, and had been heavily involved with the day to day operations through this transition. Other staff changes included the departure of the Development Manager, Sarah Parker, at the end of 2019.

**5. Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refer to the original numbers in your grant proposal under *Number of women and girls Directly Impacted and population Indirectly Impacted*.**

Our beneficiaries remain the young women who seek skill-based training to graduate as midwives, and their enrollment numbers have not changed. Currently, 20 female students are enrolled in the Razia Jan Institute. They will graduate, fully certified, in spring 2021. Due to Ministry of Public Health guidelines, the Razia Jan Institute will matriculate approximately 20 young women every other, of which 18 graduated in 2019. Thus, by spring 2021, 38 newly educated midwives will be trained and providing life-saving services to their community, while also improving the social, health, and economic outcomes of themselves, their families and their community.

Indirectly, the midwifery student's families, the educators from the Razia Jan Institute, and the partner hospitals and clinics, all beneficiaries and patients at partnering hospitals and clinics, and the larger community of Deh'Subz will experience lasting impacts of health knowledge, midwifery care, and economic development from the inclusion of more women in the healthcare workforce. The Deh'Subz district is located 30 miles north of central Kabul. This district is comprised of 46 villages, with a total approximation of 100,000 residents including a large number of nomadic families.

Long-term impacts include increased livelihoods for the families of Deh'Subz and improved health indicators and outcomes for more mothers and children in Afghanistan. Quantitatively, thousands of lives, male and female, will be positively impacted by the improved health education and care received by the midwifery

students. This ripple effect will improve the lives of everyone it touches. The 20 families with daughters at the Razia Jan Institute, each with roughly six members per family, will result in hundreds of lives being directly and positively impacted in the community.

**6. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?**

We need to make decisions regarding changing aspects of the program due to over saturation of midwives in this district that exceeds demand. Therefore, we are developing plans to provide programming to serve other medical needs to all demographics within the district.

**7. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?**

No. They remain the same. Our four strategic goals and objectives remain mission driven. They are: (1) Providing a two-year midwifery program to strengthen community health and create health-sector employment for Afghan women, certified by the Ministry of Public Health; (2) Offering young women in Deh'Subz skills-based training in English language, computer literacy, and personal finance for increased workforce development options and self-sufficiency; (3) Creating a safe and supportive network for Afghan women to continue to seek education and stimulate economic development and financial security; (4) Encouraging the community to support the educational and skills- based development of women in Deh'Subz for the well-being of families and the larger community.

**8. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.**

According to *Girls Not Brides* ([girlsnotbrides.org](http://girlsnotbrides.org)), each year, 12 million girls are married before the age of 18, that's 23 girls every minute. RRH is working to change this very statistic by educating young women with support from key partners like the Dining for Women grant. RRH is giving these young women access to an alternative pathway in life by training them in the midwifery program and thus increasing the number of midwives who provide life-saving pre- and post-natal care. That cannot be done without capable faculty to guide them. The Dining for Women grant is an enduring grant because faculty teach midwives. Addressing (1) and (2), students graduate in two years equipped for careers in health care. The rigorous midwifery educational requirements include the healthy and safe delivery of at least 60 infants, learning English alongside computer skills, and hands on practicum in clinical settings; Each of the 20 midwifery graduates also begin working in their village clinic and hospital to help provide medical care to all 100,000 villagers. These midwives are also approached repeatedly by neighbors and

friends about medical issues and dilemmas. As a result, they become the areas *de facto* medical expert. Expertly resolving sometimes complicated medical problems daily, these midwives therefore provide immediate, accessible, and available medical treatment formerly unavailable to these villagers and for which they might have had to travel long distances or suffer the medical malady in silence. Regarding (3), we also insist on future midwives managing their own personal finances and teach them valuable financial skills so they may manage their own employment capably. Finally (4), faculty inspire these young women to create new beginnings for themselves, and teach them to speak up and elevate themselves as they become beacons of female empowerment for others in the community that younger generations of girls look up to.

**9. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?**

We are well on track to completing our objectives without any issues.

**Required Supplemental Materials:**

- Program photos in assigned Dropbox folder. View photos [here](#).
- Detailed Expenses

Report prepared by (signature):



Print Name: Monica Hinojos-Capes Date: March 10, 2020

Title: Executive Director

(Additional) Board Member (signature):



Print Name: \_Patti Quigley\_ Date: \_\_\_ March 10, 2020