



Education and Care Organization of Children

د ماشومانو د روزنې او پالنې بنسټ
مؤسسه آموزش و مراقبت اطفال

Description

- Afghanistan is currently one of the most difficult countries in the world in which to identify as a woman. Political and economic insecurity, educational inequality, sexual violence, and poor health are pervasive among Afghan women and children. Nevertheless, when equipped with powerful vocational and economic tools, women can change their lives, regardless of circumstance. Too often, girls and women don't have the same access and opportunities as boys and men. They are denied access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. A situation that has gone on for too long, and it is time to make a change. We can achieve this together, by joining forces and working to give women all over Afghanistan 100% equal rights, because when we all have the same opportunities, the country becomes a better place for everyone.

Address: Kart-e-Char, District 3th, Kabul, Afghanistan.

PH. #: +93 (0) 799 333 148 | +93 (0) 789619599

Email Add: info@ecoc.org.af

Website: www.ecoc.org.af

Table of Contents

Executive summary	1
Organization Overview	1
Vision Statement.....	2
Mission Statement	2
Goal	2
Objectives	2
Concept	3
Methodology.....	3
Expected Impact	4
Ethics and Security	6
Conclusion.....	6

Executive summary

Too often, girls and women don't have the same access and opportunities as boys and men. They are denied access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. A situation that has gone on for too long, and it is time to make a change. We can achieve this together, by joining forces and working to give women all over Afghanistan 100% equal rights, because when we all have the same opportunities, the country becomes a better place for everyone. Gender issues have always been tense in Afghanistan. The situation has been worsened by decades of war which affected women's rights as the most vulnerable part of society. Women's exploitation as housewives is the main dark part of Afghan culture, which affects women's progress toward their empowerment process. Decades of civil war excluded women from taking part in social life, which worsened their economic and social position. An archaic Afghan culture grew out of Islamic fundamentalism which intensified the cultural misogynic view against women and placed them as a subordinate gender in the society.

In Afghan society, men's privileged status as the family breadwinners is an undeniable fact within a war-torn economy which further places strains on social justice and social order. These instabilities have caused more a fragile stature for women who already had a culturally agonized position throughout history. Promoting gender equality will not be easy because culturally, Afghanistan has a very pessimistic point of view against women's progress and their social position. Besides efforts from civil society activists, the society also had many counter-struggles from different groups who did not tolerate women's voices and their empowerment. Therefore, **the following proposal intends to apply for NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDS (NHRF) It calls for a proposal to implement the rebuilding and advancing the situation of the rights of women, girls, and minorities in Afghanistan.**

Organization Overview

The Education and Care Organization of Children (ECOC) is a **woman-led (in the title of President) organization** that was established in the year 2021 and is registered with the Afghan Ministry of Economy under registration number 5167. The Purpose of ECOC is to provide individuals and communities with a chance to recover their lives and achieve their full potential in the fields of Education, Social Well-being, Vocational Training, public relations, Reconstruction, and Health organization is to educate the community and to reduce the poverty by serving people of Afghanistan. ECOC is focused on Health, Education (Formal and Informal), Vocational Training, Disaster, emergency, Awareness, and Capacity Building of communities.

The Education and Care Organization of Children (ECOC) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-governmental organization dedicated to sustaining and empowering the Afghanistan Venerable people, with a primary focus on the education and care of children and empowerment of disabilities, women, widows, orphans, and young girls. ECOCO operates programs in the areas of health education, income generation, Emergency, vocational training, Reconstruction, Charity Programs, capacity building, and relief distribution. ECOC also seeks a way of hope, tolerance, and social justice, where poverty has been overwhelmed and everyone lives in self-respect and security. ECOC proposes to be a National force and a partner of choice within an international undertaking dedicated to ending poverty.

Vision Statement

To contribute to the development of Afghanistan and improve the living standard of people with disabilities, Children, girls, women, and poor families by carrying out sustainable development and basic substructure projects throughout Afghanistan. We want to provide services to the children of poor families and to provide more facilities to cooperative children with disabilities, blinds, and women. Therefore, we want to support their current living standards to a progressive level. The ECOC NGO focuses on the Education and Care of Children and mobilizing societies throughout Afghanistan. Imagine an Afghanistan in which each and every individual regardless of sex, nationality, color, caste, and ethnicity is ensuring the right to;

- Standard of Education.
- Quality of Health.
- Sound Standard of Living.
- Economic Development.
- Peace.
- Capacity Building.
- Gender Equality.
- Vocational Trainings.

Mission Statement

To contribute to building a prosperous and impartial society through public awareness creation, advocacy, and improving the socio-economic condition of the people in Afghanistan with a focus on. To contribute to the development of Afghanistan and improve the living standard of the children care and education by carrying out sustainable development and basic infrastructure projects throughout Afghanistan. We want to provide services to our poor families and to provide more facilities to our helpful children therefore we want to promote their current living standards to an advanced level.

Goal

ECOC's goal is to work for the Development of women's and children's education and care, will Support the most vulnerable communities with chances to improve their daily lives and approach their full needs in the fields of Education, Capacity Building, Social Welfare, Justice, Leadership, Vocational training, Gender training mean streaming, Health and achieving people economical sustainability.

Objectives

- To work with local underserved communities for their development through motivation, capacity building, Health, and gender mean streaming.
- To provide children with vocational training and have skills and develop in society. To provide better teaching to students Collaborated extensively.
- To provide for women and children the people rights training, Leadership, and Advocacy training to know their rights.

ECOC's main focus is on the following five trainings such as;

1. Education of women, girls, and children.
2. Care of women, girls, and children.
3. Capacity building of women, girls, and children.
4. Provision of Health services for women, girls and children.
5. Legal Awareness and access to justice for women, girls, and children.

Concept

In modern Afghanistan, the social and economic outlook for Afghan women has worsened; Economic insecurity, sexual violence, and a lack of healthcare resources are pervasive among Afghan women following the breakdown of their freedoms and protections. Domestic violence, early and forced marriage, and abduction are prevalent, with no accountability for the perpetrators.

As of February 2023, UNESCO reports that 2.5 million school-aged girls and young women in Afghanistan do not attend school. the ban in 2022 by the Taliban government saw 1.2 million denied access to college and secondary schools. In the midst of women's rights being upended across the country, we still see remarkable fortitude among the women we serve as they strive for self-sufficiency and financial independence.

Since 2021, we have collaborated with organizations in Afghanistan to reach and serve as many women, girls, and children as possible. Participants of our programs received vocational training for jobs like animal husbandry, tailoring, and knitting, participated in savings and self-help groups, and learned to invest in their businesses as they received stipends. Through this curriculum, they become prepared to receive an income and invest in their own savings. They are also trained by local staff on how to embrace and defend their rights, influence decision-making in their households, and create social change in their communities. After the control of Afghanistan by the Taliban government, our (ECOC) training centers were banned till now, and it was very painful for us.

Methodology

The Taliban authorities in Afghanistan issued a ban on women and girls working for organizations, Education in schools and universities, and commercial activities. Therefore, we temporarily paused our, in-person training for the safety of our team and participants. Since then, we've secured permission at the district and provincial levels to reopen some training centers, with female staff continuing to teach and train our participants including women, girls, and children. Our work is locally led by individuals who are from the same communities as the women we serve and it's because of these established local relationships that we will be able to resume our programs.

We're relieved that we've been able to reopen in some areas, but we are extremely concerned about the women and girls in other locations for whom our program was offering a lifeline in the face of a humanitarian crisis and crippling economic situation. Without all of our female staff being able to work,

we cannot reach women in Afghanistan with the support they need and deserve. So, we are continuing our efforts alongside other local, international, and UN agencies to advocate for an end to the ban. Afghan women deserve the right to work, learn, and take part in the life of their country. We will not give up until they are able to do so.

To serve the women, girls, children, and minorities in Afghanistan, our organization is committed to implementing the services using the following methods,

1. Conducting informational training courses by ECOC.
Critical modules that include the protection and promotion of human rights especially women, girls and children, gender equality, and the value of women's work, benefits of saving, basic health education, advocacy, rights, and decision making, and group formation.
2. Skill-building of women, girls, and children programs by ECOC.
Numeracy, business skills, and a chosen vocational skill.
3. Resource provision
Payments by ECOC Include monthly cash stipends, resources to pursue chosen vocations, referrals to health and legal services, and access to savings groups.
4. Increase funding to end violence against women and girls in implementing projects such as animal husbandry, tailoring courses, knitting, human rights awareness, and more...
5. Providing literacy programs for women, girls, and children capacity building in women's rights awareness, decision-making capabilities...
6. Women's economic empowerment.
ECOC will make sure to facilitate sales opportunities for skilled women and girls who are tailoring, Knitting, and...

Expected Impact

The expected impact after conducting the above-mentioned programs with the financial (Grant) support of the Norwegian Human Rights organization will be as follows;

Through our programs, women, girls, and children will receive a stipend and learn vocational and business skills to earn their own income. In addition, they will acquire knowledge regarding their rights to work, gender equality, benefits of saving, basic health education, advocacy, and their rights to decision-making.

The women we serve are leaders on the front lines, rebuilding war-torn societies from the ground up. They are passionate about advocating for other women and their communities, and with our help, they become agents of change. We work with women, girls, and children to become community leaders and to advocate for the rights of other women, girls, children, and marginalized people in their communities.

We developed and piloted these programs to approach focused on grassroots advocacy. The goal of our program is to give women the tools to take on community leadership roles and organize collective action to achieve the changes they want to see.

Whether it's tailoring, knitting, or poultry raising, women learn vocational skills that are marketable in their communities, so they can start small ventures and begin earning an income. Our program also gives women the opportunity to learn important business and numeracy skills, so they can keep track of their earnings and increase them. Every woman who joins our program receives a monthly stipend, so they can practice saving and making financial decisions. They also receive guidance in establishing or joining cooperatives, associations, or village savings and loan associations so they and other women in their community can make the most of their earnings together.

Why it matters: Learning how to earn and save money gives women the ability to provide for their family's needs and the independence to invest in a new future.

With our intensive training, we focus on advanced leadership skills, effective communication, how to advocate for women, girls, and children's rights, violence prevention, and creating economic opportunities for all the concerned bodies. Following the training, Change Agents will be mentored to undertake grassroots advocacy activities from planning to implementation. We also bring different groups together so they can learn from each other, share experiences, and connect with locals about their rights and advocacy.

Influence Decision Making

Whether it is in the home or in the community, women's and girl's voices and opinions matter. This is why our program is designed to give them knowledge of their rights, because with that knowledge comes the power to act and influence.

Through our program, women learn about the power of civic participation, voting, and negotiation. Together, they find the confidence to raise their voices on issues affecting their lives. They share their knowledge with other women, their neighbors, and children to protect their rights.

Why it matters: Learning about human rights gives women and girls the confidence to raise their voices and men the ability to respect the opinions of the women in their lives.

No society can prosper when half the population is prevented from reaching their full potential. Through our programs, we help communities shift their rules that specify what women and girls can and should do to clear the social barriers that limit the success of women, their families, and the community itself.

Through our investment in hundreds of women in each community where we operate, support to grassroots change agents, and engagement of men as allies and partners, we work to cultivate an environment where social norms shift towards valuing women's new social and economic roles. We train

male community leaders to become trainers who promote women's rights and protections to other men. Through advocacy on the local level, we work to change the systems, structures, and institutions that hold women back.

Why it matters: Changing knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors isn't enough. We need to change the social norms – the sometimes unspoken beliefs about women's and men's roles – that hold society back from reaching true equality and progress for the future of their community.

Ethics and Security

- **Ethics**

The project complies with local culture and norms. While planning the project different aspects and implications were considered.

- **Security**

The project will not raise any security concerns in the area and for the organization itself.

Conclusion

Working towards a world in which Afghan women and girls enjoy peace, justice, equality, and the freedom to participate in all spheres of life and live without fear. Afghan women and girls have been denied access to secondary education, to higher education, to public and political spaces, and to employment opportunities. Services for supporting victims of gender-based violence have been largely dismantled. Unless reversed, the harmful effects of these reprehensible measures will be devastating and irreparable for Afghanistan's economy and society, effects that will be felt by every Afghan. The full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and their equal and meaningful participation in society are not only goals in themselves but also prerequisites for sustainable economic and political development, social cohesion, stability, and peace in Afghanistan.

We unite in acknowledging the extraordinary courage of women and girls in Afghanistan. Despite mounting restrictions and intimidation by the Taliban, they continue to support and contribute to their families and communities. We applaud the many Afghan communities and individuals who have strongly and bravely stood up in support of Afghan women and girls.

We support the calls by international organizations and by the people of Afghanistan for women and girls' full access to quality education at schools and universities and women's unrestricted ability to work in all sectors, including humanitarian assistance and basic services delivery, equitable and comprehensive delivery of which is impossible without full participation of women.

We acknowledge the key role of the Norwegian Human Rights in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Barring women and girls from receiving an education and excluding women from working in crucial sectors will also severely inhibit the much-needed economic recovery of Afghanistan.

This support for the Afghan people is particularly relevant, as we fear that the Taliban will implement further measures restricting women and girls' exercise of civil, political, economic, cultural, and social rights, with a dire impact on the future of Afghanistan and its people.

Together we urge the Taliban to respect all people of Afghanistan, deliver on their commitments to the Afghan people and the international community, and reverse all decisions and practices restricting women's and girls' exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In general, women are more likely to consider their families and communities in decision-making processes, which is crucial to producing the kind of holistic solutions that make for effective climate action. Indigenous women in particular possess unique knowledge about agriculture, conservation, and natural resource management that makes their voices indispensable in any decision-making process.

The main responsibilities of the executive board include making strategic decisions, setting goals, financing, monitoring performance, ensuring compliance with law and regulations, supporting management team and objectives, overseeing the implementation of plans, and ensuring the overall success of the organization. The executive board also plays a key role in representing the organization to external stakeholders, such as investors, partners, and the public. They play a crucial role in shaping the direction and success of the organization, and their leadership and decision-making have a significant impact on the overall performance and reputation of the organization.

Board of Directors

The board of directors is a group of individuals elected by the shareholders of a Organization to oversee the management and strategic direction of the organization. The board typically includes a mix of internal and external members, with the internal members often being senior executives, such as the CEO, and external members being independent directors with expertise in various areas relevant to the Organization's operations.

The main responsibilities of the board of directors include setting the overall strategic direction of the Organization, appointing and overseeing the performance of the executive team, ensuring the Organization's financial health and compliance with laws and regulations, and representing the interests of the shareholders. The board also plays a key role in risk management, succession planning, and overseeing major corporate transactions such as mergers and acquisitions.

Overall, the board of directors acts as the governing body of the Organization, providing oversight, guidance, and leadership to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the organization. Their decisions and actions have a significant impact on the Organization's performance, reputation, and relationships with stakeholders.

General Assembly

The general assembly, also known as the annual general meeting (AGM), is a gathering of the ECOC's shareholders or members of the organization. The meetings are held once a year and serve as a forum for the Organization's leadership to report on its performance, financial status, and future plans to the shareholders, and members. The general assembly also provides an opportunity for shareholders, and members of the ECOC to ask questions, vote on important matters, and elect or re-elect members of the board of directors, and other leadership positions.

ECOC's Previous Engagements and Projects

ECOC was established 3 years ago and due to the recent socio-economic and political changes in Afghanistan, it has not yet been able to receive funds from international donors and UN. Still ECOC has not stopped its activities and executed smaller projects with the help of private donors and benevolent traders and investors through which emergency assistance was provided to the vulnerable people affected by the recent earthquakes in Herat province, and to the returnees from Pakistan who were stranded in the Torkham border region in cooperation with WFP, UNDP, and UNOCHA. Through these projects we have extended our assistance to a significant number of people.

In addition, we have training centers based in Kabul where we train and educate young women and girls in different cross cutting issues such as literacy, tailoring, and menstrual hygiene trainings. Also, advocacy for women is another part of our activities and we have had numerous sessions inside UN compound.

Currently, we have 3 training centers in Kabul, 2 of them are located in district 15th with a number of 200 female trainees and 1 of them is located in district 5th with 100 (50+50) female and male trainees.

