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ORGANIZATION PROFILE



ASCHIANA

Afghanistan Children and New Approach



About Us

Aschiana (meaning “The Nest” in Dari) is not-for-profit, non-political and non-governmental organization founded in 1995 in Kabul, Afghanistan, to address the urgent needs of street-working and war-affected children in Afghanistan.

It registered under Ministry of Economy with registration number 388. Aschiana is working for the cause of marginalized, vulnerable and deprived communities and in particular for the uplift of children, youth, women and their communities at grass root level.

For decades, Afghanistan has endured armed conflict, economic instability, and displacement, leaving millions of children and families vulnerable to poverty, exploitation, and lack of access to basic services included education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities. To address such challenging issues, the organization has successfully accomplished multiple projects and programmes in various sectors such as education, child protection, GBV, youth empowerment, livelihood and skill development, nutrition, food security, health, emergency relief and assistance and other similar projects and programmes. Aschiana is actively addressing the issues of the most vulnerable and deprived children and women in the communities through both “need-based” and “rights-based” approaches.



Our Vision

“An Afghan society, where vulnerable children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities are empowered to achieve self-sufficiency, dignity, and resilience.”

Through sustainable poverty reduction, community-led development, and protection from exploitation, every individual particularly children and women can thrive in safe, inclusive environments for better survival.

We envision communities capacitated with disaster preparedness, committed to environmental stewardship and resilient to the impacts of climate change, creating a healthier, more equitable future for generations to come.



Our Mission

To empower vulnerable children, women, youth and communities through education, skills training, and access to resources, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency and long-term growth.

To implement sustainable programmes aimed at reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for marginalized communities.

To provide immediate support and long-term recovery assistance to communities affected by natural and man-made disasters, fostering resilience and preparedness for future crises.

To promote community-led initiatives that support health, education, livelihoods, agricultural development and economic development, fostering environments where all members can thrive.

To actively prevent trafficking in persons / human trafficking and other forms of exploitation by raising awareness, advocating for policies, and providing resources, immediate and long-term services and support to affected and at-risk populations.

To empower persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups through inclusive education, skills training, and access to resources, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency, dignity, and long-term growth.

To address the impacts of climate change by supporting community resilience, promoting sustainable practices include agricultural practices, and protecting natural resources, ensuring a healthier environment for future generations.



Our Core Values

- ❖ Humanitarian Principles (Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality)
- ❖ Transparency
- ❖ Dignity
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Equity
- ❖ Team Work

Key Focus Areas

i. Education:

Since the inception, Aschiana is providing education services to underprivileged and affected children both girls and boys through community-based and empowerment approaches. Our education programmes comprise of education in general, education in emergencies, out-of-school education, integration into public schools, school sponsorships, school meals, skills for adolescents and skills-based literacy. Thousands of children are benefited so far from the community-based interventions for accessing the quality formal and informal education.



ii. Protection:

For more than ten years, Aschiana is actively engaged in provision of protection services, especially child protection and GBV services across the Afghanistan. Our services include protection in general, child protection, gender-based violence, protective spaces for children and women, family re-unification and re-integration, birth registration, legal assistance and access to justice, prevention of and response to violence, prevention and response to counter trafficking in persons, protection advice and support, protection in emergencies and registration and profiling. Our approach is to provide these protection services through community-based approach and our working modality is to create awareness and education among the masses, build capacities of stakeholders, provision of mental health and psychosocial support services, comprehensive and focused case management services and strengthening of effective referral mechanisms. These services have impacted the lives of hundreds and thousands of children, women and their families so far.



iv. Social Policy and Advocacy:

Due to continuous and complex crises in Afghanistan, the Afghan population is severely suffering from the issues of social protection and multi-dimensional poverty. Aschiana supports its communities through provision of different services such as cash-based transfers, winterization aid, awareness and education and advocacy with stakeholders. Since 2022, more than forty thousand deprived community members are benefited from multi-purpose cash assistance and winterization aid programmes.



iii. Livelihoods:

For decades, Aschiana is implementing livelihood programmes through stand-alone projects as well through integrated programmes for underprivileged and affected communities, in particular with vulnerable and affected women, the family members of vulnerable children and women-headed families. The aim of these interventions is to support better livelihoods income-generation of the target communities on self-help basis. The services included cash and grant assistances, technical and vocational education and trainings, co-existence with communities and community mobilization and self-management. The livelihood interventions have created significant impact on lives of the thousands of families in particular among the lives of women and youth.



vi. Nutrition:

The primary aim of the nutrition program is to promote sustainable, equitable access to nutritious food and to improve overall health and well-being, particularly among vulnerable populations, including children, women, and marginalized communities. It further envisions for the reduction of malnourishment among children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. Aschiana support impactful approaches to address the nutrition issues in Afghanistan through community-based nutrition programmes, capacity building of stakeholders, partnerships and collaborations, monitoring and evaluation and promoting sustainable food systems.



v. Health:

The main aim of the health program is to provide accessible, quality healthcare services to underserved populations, enhance health literacy, and reduce health disparities through targeted interventions and community outreach. This is done through preventive healthcare, health education and awareness, access to quality healthcare services and mental health support.



vii. Durable Solutions:

For more than four decades, Afghanistan is witnessing the continuous massive movement of population due to wars and natural disasters. The Afghanistan population comprises the significant number of internally displaced population, returnees and migrants. For the promotion of peace and stability and for maintaining social cohesion and prosperity, Aschiana is in view and struggle for integration, reintegration and resettlement of affected communities through community-based multisectoral interventions.

Cross Sectoral Areas

- i. Communication for development
- ii. Disability and inclusion
- iii. Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction
- iv. Emergency response and management
- v. Gender equality and women empowerment
- vi. Youth empowerment and peace building
- vii. Monitoring and evaluation
- viii. Training, capacity building and capacity development

Our Target Groups

Our target groups comprise of vulnerable, affected and deprived communities in particular children, women, youth, persons with disabilities and their families.

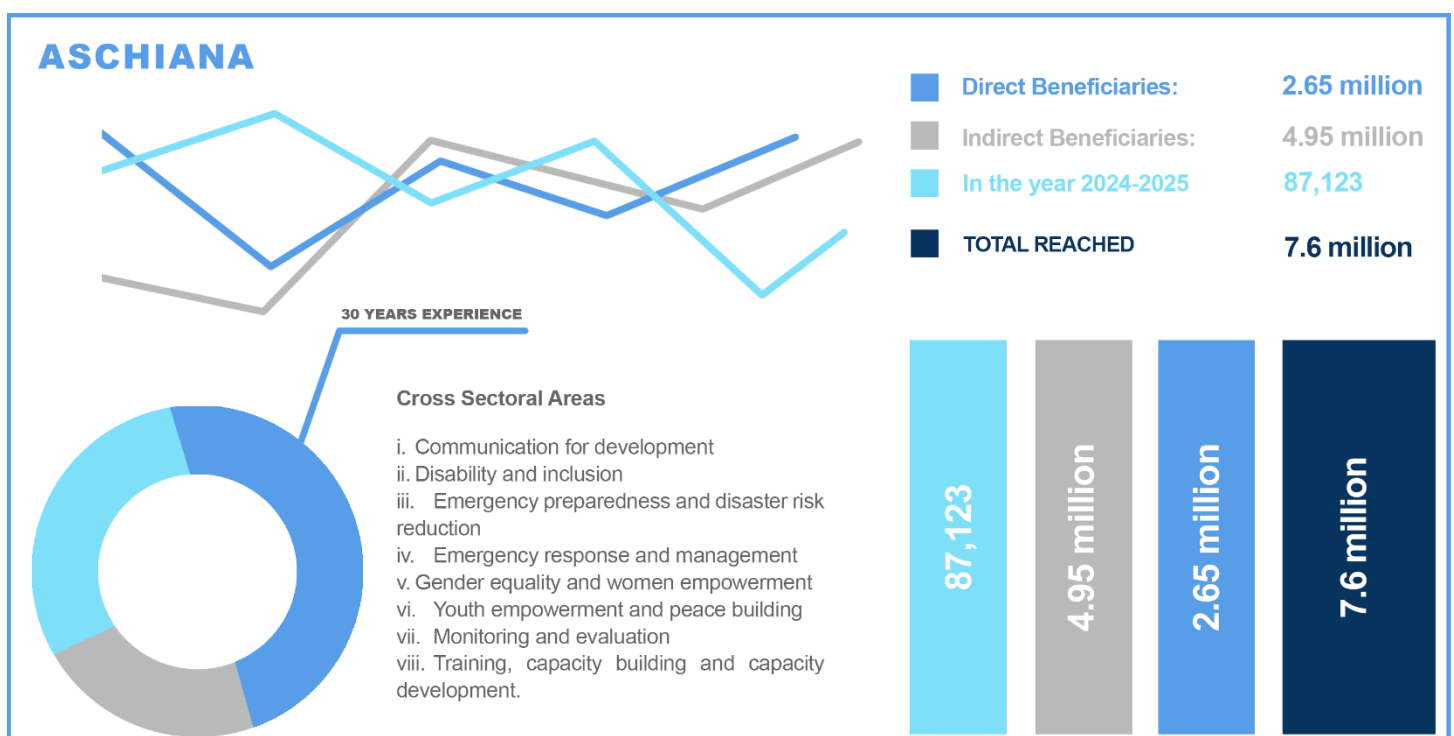
However, our main population of concerns are:

- Vulnerable and affected children such as street children (labors and beggars), IDPs / Returnees communities and their children, unaccompanied, unprotected and separated children, children in conflict and in contact with law, drug addict children, orphans, children at risk or victim of sexual exploitation or survivor of violence, victims of human trafficking and children and their families with poor socio-economic conditions.
- Vulnerable and affected women and their families such as GBV survivors and/or at risk of violence and victimization, woman headed families – widows, IDP / Returnees vulnerable women (at risk of exploitation), women and their families with poor socio-economic conditions and women in prisons

Beneficiaries

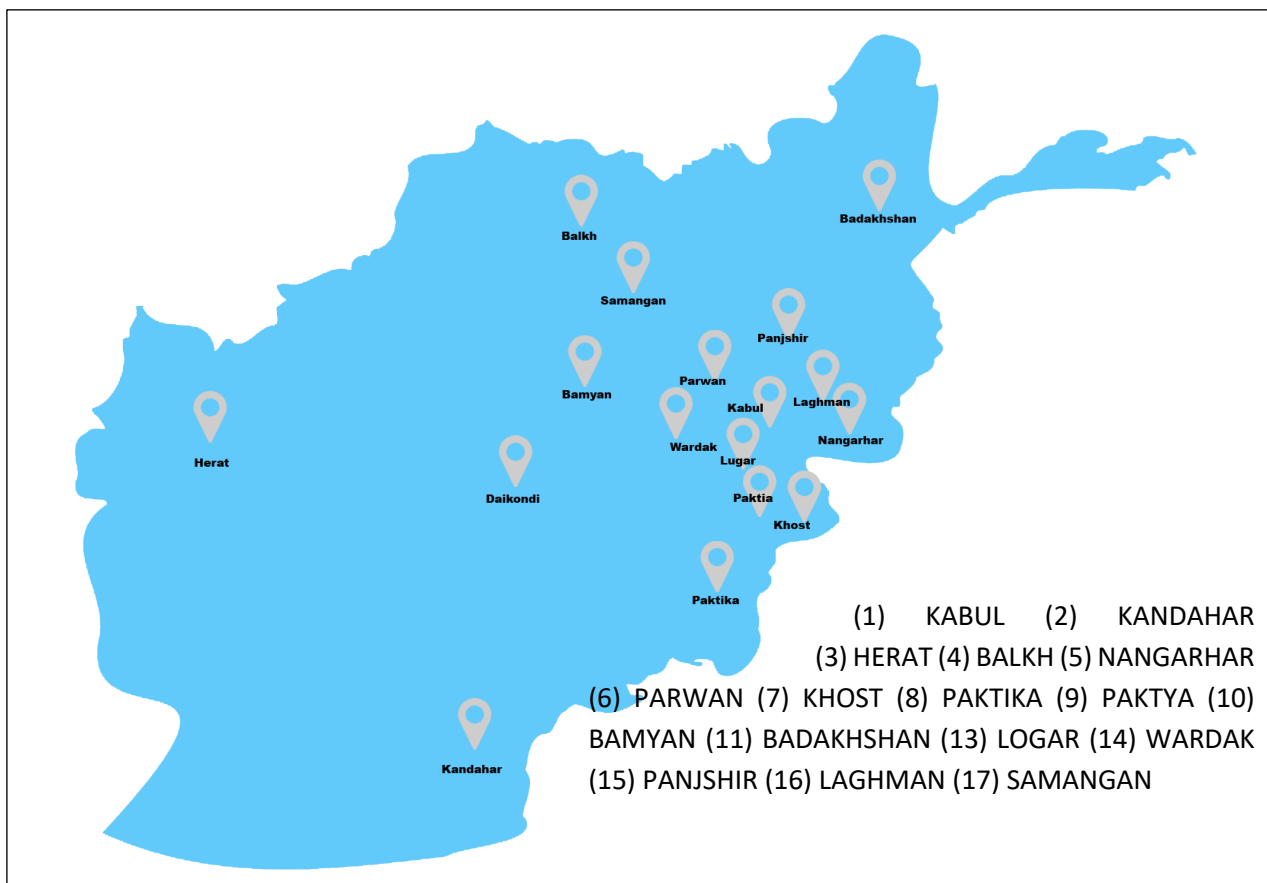
For a last 30 years, our initiatives have directly impacted on lives of more than 2,650,000 children, youth, women and their communities across the Afghanistan.

Just in year 2024-2025, Aschiana successfully served around 87,123 persons Including majority number of children, women and youth in Afghanistan.



Geographical Reach

Aschiana has worked and has been working in more than sixteen provinces of Afghanistan.



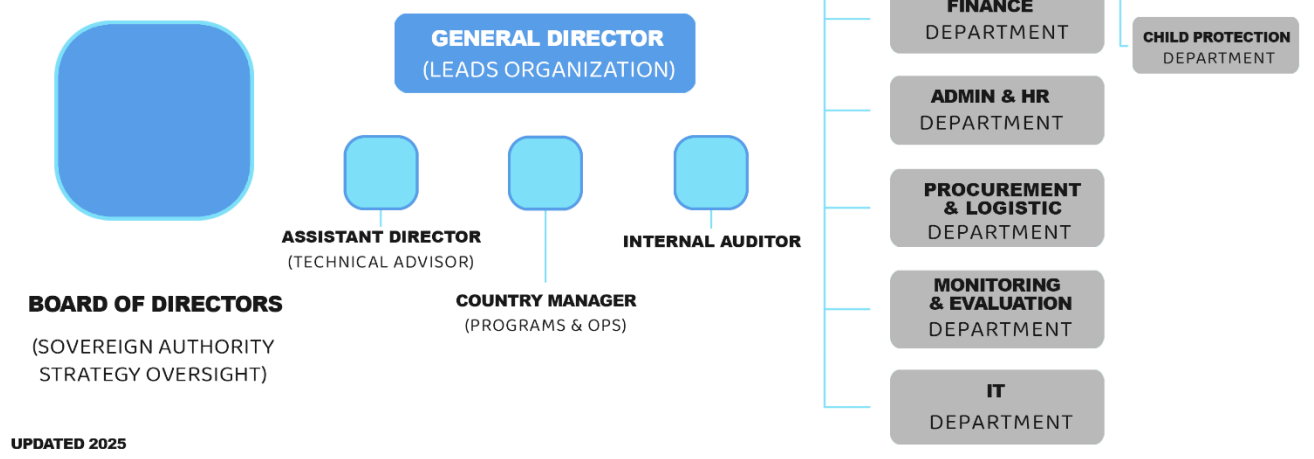
Governance

Aschiana operates under the supervisory of and in consultation with Board of directors. The Board of Directors is a sovereign and authorized body in all affairs of our organization. It meets twice a year and determines strategies and principles of the organization and evaluates the work results of the Executive Board.

The overall policy guideline and oversight is provided by the Board of Directors. The board comprises experts, professionals and academics. The Board of Directors advise the Executive Director of Aschiana in all organizational and welfare matters. They are also raising funds internally and outside of Afghanistan. The Executive Director supported by core management team comprises of Assistant Director (Technical Advisor), Country Manager (Programme & Operations), personnel from Programme, Monitoring and Evaluation, Finance & Procurement, Administration and Human Resource Departments have the overall responsibilities to manage the organization and ensure programme, operational and administrative implementation and delivery of the services for achieving the goals and objectives of organization from its head office situated in main Kabul City, Afghanistan.

ASCHIANA GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

VISUAL HIERARCHY OF ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

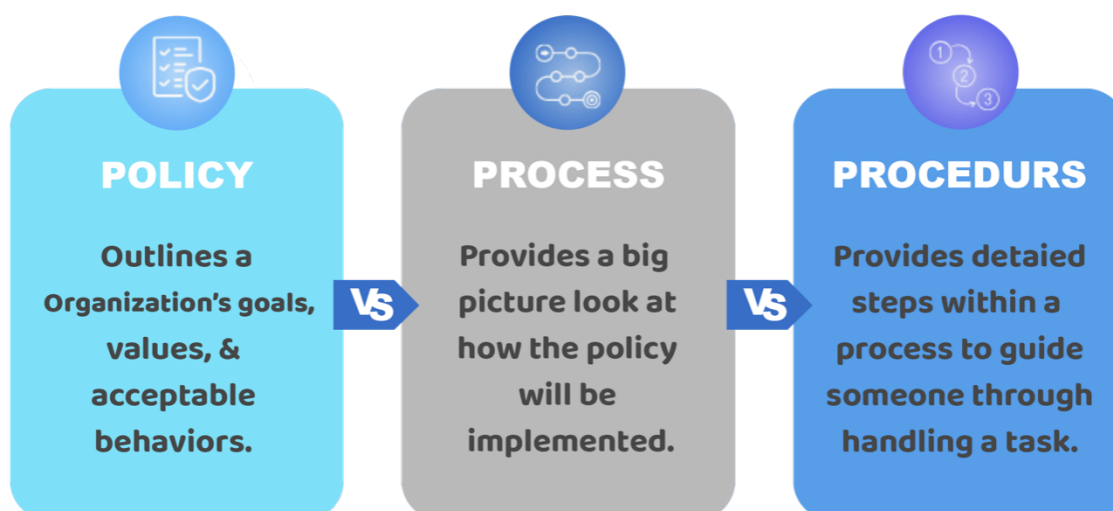


Policies and Procedures

In order to facilitate the work detailed guidelines and procedures have been devised and developed and introduced to ensure highest professional standards, transparency and openness and consistency. These policies and procedures are practiced both at organizational level and at field level while interacting the target communities. Aschiana's policies and procedures can be evident in the following documents:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Manual
2. Human Resource Manual
3. Finance Manual
4. Procurement Manual
5. Protection from Sexual Exploitation. and Abuse (PSEA) Manual
6. Child Safeguarding Policy
7. Accountability to Affected People / GRM
8. Environment and Sustainability Manual
9. Anti-Fraud
10. Risk Management
11. Information Technology

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SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Basic Education Programme in Kabul

Aschiana provides basic education for illiterate and dropout street-working children and those in IDP camps, preparing them to rejoin public schools. The curriculum includes Pashto, Dari, math, and religious studies. Over 1,250 children attend classes daily in Kabul.

Impact & Achievements:

- Educated 1,250+ children daily in Kabul and Nangarhar.
- Reintegrated thousands into public schools.
- Taught literacy, numeracy, and essential subjects.
- Supported displaced children in resuming education.
- Fostered a safe, supportive learning environment.

The program empowers vulnerable children with the skills and confidence to pursue formal education.

Child Protection & GBV (2023 – 2024)

Aschiana provided critical community-based protection and support services to over 46,420 vulnerable individuals, including 44,050 children, 970 women, and 1,400 youth across Kabul and Parwan provinces.

Key Impacts Include:

- Improved Mental & Psychosocial Health through MHPSS services in child- and women-friendly spaces, as well at community level through decentralized way.
- Timely Protection via comprehensive case management and referrals to medical, legal, and social services, including cash assistance.
- Economic Empowerment through vocational trainings and small business grants.
- Increased Awareness of child protection, GBV, and health issues at the community level.
- Strengthened Workforce by training frontline workers on child protection, GBV, MHPSS, and related topics.
- Social Reintegration support for unaccompanied children, youth in conflict with the law, and vulnerable women in juvenile rehabilitation center and women prison in Kabul.

School Sponsorship Programme

Aschiana's School Sponsorship programme helps street-working children reintegrate into government schools with the support of individual donors. Each sponsored child receives \$30 per month for educational expenses, reducing their need to work and enabling them to focus on learning. Social workers identify eligible children and ensure their families commit to keeping them in school.

Impact & Achievements:

- Currently supports 55 children in Kabul.
- Over 13,000 children have graduated high school since 2003.
- Many graduates have pursued higher education and stable jobs, becoming self-reliant and supporting their families.

The programme empowers vulnerable children to focus on education and build a brighter future.

Women & Youth Empowerment

For nearly 30 years, Aschiana empowers women, higher-age girls, and youth through vocational training in Kabul, Parwan, Nangarhar, Paktiya, Herat and Balkh provinces. Programme include:

Women & Girls: Tailoring, embroidery (6-month courses)

Youth: Carpentry, cooler repair, shoemaking, electricity, plumbing (6-month courses)

Graduates receive toolkits to start businesses and are connected to market opportunities.

Impact & Achievements:

- Over 15,600 beneficiaries have gained marketable skills and started businesses in different provinces of Afghanistan.

Aschiana's efforts promote financial independence, reduce poverty, and foster economic stability.

Sports Development Programme

Aschiana promotes sports as a vital part of child development, providing training in football, basketball, volleyball, and judo for street-working children. Many participants have competed nationally and internationally, earning awards and recognition.

Impact & Achievements:

- Trained 150 sports teachers for the Ministry of Education.
- Athletes won medals in regional judo tournaments, including gold and bronze in Bangladesh (2015) and Tajikistan (2017).
- 32 football players joined Afghanistan's National Football Team since 2002.
- Trainers attended international workshops in many countries, enhancing sports education in Afghanistan.

Aschiana continues to empower children through sports, fostering physical fitness, social inclusion, discipline, confidence, and leadership.

Mobile Library Programme

Aschiana's mobile libraries promote reading among children in IDP camps and Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers in Kabul. Storytellers read to non-readers and distribute books, fostering literacy and a love for reading.

Impact & Achievements:

- Reaches 1,200 children monthly in Kabul.
- Distributed over 10,000 books, promoting literacy.
- Helped non-readers develop reading skills.
- Provides safe learning spaces for displaced children.

The programme nurtures literacy, education, and a reading culture in underserved communities.

Youth Empowerment & Peacebuilding

Since 2010, Aschiana has empowered youth in Kabul, Mazar, and Nangarhar through leadership, peacebuilding, and vocational training programs. Youth groups, including male and female members, collaborate with local leaders to foster social harmony and community development.

Impact & Achievements:

- Established more than 20 youth groups in three provinces to promote peace building and community engagement.
- More than 2,000 youth volunteers received capacity building trainings on leadership, professional, managerial skills and job placement
- Youth volunteers organized and conducted community campaigns, environmental campaigns, sports events
- Youth volunteers organized and conducted community dialogues / group discussions with women, youth & children
- Youth volunteers organized and conducted global days to raise awareness.

The program fosters youth leadership, social cohesion, and economic empowerment.

Art-Based Therapy

Aschiana uses art therapy to help traumatized children heal through creative expression, offering activities like painting, calligraphy, and miniature art. The programme also provides training to help participants develop artistic skills for income generation.

Impact & Achievements:

- Thousands of children trained in art therapy, including street-working children and university students.
- Participants have showcased artwork in national and international exhibitions, earning awards and recognition.
- Notable achievements include winning art competitions in Egypt, Italy, South Korea, and Romania.
- Artwork selected by UNDP and the Ministry of Interior for child rights calendars.

The programme fosters emotional healing, creativity, and financial empowerment through art.

Female Literacy Programme

Aschiana provides literacy and education support to higher-age girls and women through Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and home-based education in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Nangarhar. The programme helps those who missed out on formal schooling due to social or economic barriers.

Impact & Achievements:

- Educated over 18,000 girls since 2003 through ALP.
- Reaches 170 learners in Nangarhar with home-based education.
- Trained thousands of female teachers to support literacy initiatives.
- Established community-based education centers in remote areas.
- Offers vocational training to help women gain practical skills and economic independence.

Aschiana empowers women and girls with literacy and skills, promoting education and gender equality.

Health Services

Aschiana provides free medical care, check-ups, and health education to vulnerable children and families at its Day Care Center in Kabul and IDP camps. Additionally, Child-Friendly Spaces in hospitals offer psychosocial support to children undergoing medical treatment.

Impact & Achievements:

- Provides life-saving healthcare to children in IDP camps.
- Distributes winter relief supplies, including medicines and warm clothing.
- Offers psychosocial support (PSS) to children in hospitals and community centers.
- Conducts health education on hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention.
- Partners with hospitals to expand healthcare access and emotional support.

Aschiana's health initiatives ensure medical care and health awareness for vulnerable communities.

LIST OF SOME PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY ASCHIANA ORGANIZATION IN IN KABUL AND PROVINCES FROM 2000 TO 2025.

No	Description of Projects	Project Site	Donor	Year of Implementation	Total Budget (Approx.)
1	Support the most vulnerable children and their families through the provision of integrated, age-appropriate and gender-transformative child protection interventions	Kabul & Parwan	UNICEF	2023-2024	692,821.46 USD
2	Winterization Project in Panjshir and Parwan	Parwan & Panjshir	UNICEF	2023-2024	26,097,615 AFN
3	SBL Classes in Panjshir Province	Panjshir	UNESCO	2024	51,929.00 USD

4	Supporting vulnerable children from Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camp with basic education.	Kabul	Linda Norgrove Foundation	2024	13,454.00 USD
5	Child Friendly Spaces (Case management, PSS Counselling, Awareness raising and Cases referrals to the services), WFS and VTC Centers.	Kabul & Parwan	UNICEF	2022 – 2023	1,500,000 USD
6	Case Management and Multipurpose Cash Transfer Emergency.	Kabul, Khost, Paktika & Panjshir	UNICEF	2022- 2023	350,000 USD
7	Child Friendly Spaces (Case management, PSS Coinciding, Awareness raising and Cases referrals to the services),	Kabul, Kandahar & Nangarhar	UNOCHA	2021-2022	485,000 USD
8	Refugee Project South Asia (RPSA)Empowering women, promoting peace, networking across countries, enabling education: Better integration of refugees and internally displaced persons in host communities	Nangarhar	TDH Germany	2021 - 2024	536,000 EURO
9	Protection, Education, recreational & Vocational training Programmes for children and youth.	Kabul	ASCHIANA Foundation	2022-2023	124,000 USD
10	Community Based Education (CBE) for children at the IDP camps in Kabul.	Kabul	Friends of ASCHIANA UK	2022-2023	58,000 USD
11	Community & mobile library, Capacity building workshops & campaigns to promote reading culture in the community.	Kabul, Herat & Nangarhar	IBBY	2023	28,000 USD
12	Protection & Capacity-building activities for girls to promote child rights & protect team.	Kabul	Global GLOW	2015 -2023	38,500 USD
13	Community Based Education (CBE) for children at the IDP camps.	Kabul	ZAANHA	2021-2022	15,000 USD
14	Social and Emotional Learning Research in primary schools in Afghanistan.	Kabul & Others	USAID - ACR	2019-2020	100,000 USD
15	Capacity Building of girls.	Kabul	Global Glow	2015-2020	150,000 USD
16	Youth Empowerment in IDP Camps.	Kabul & Mazar-e-Sharif	GIZ, Germany	2019-2020	30,000 USD
17	Support to Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers.	Kabul & Herat	OTB Foundation, Italy	2019-2020	40,000 EURO
18	Capacity-building trainings for youths, Library and Mobile Library.	Kabul, Herat Mazar & Paktia	IBBY	2016-2020	100,000 USD
19	Mobile library for IDP, schools and orphanages (To promote literacy & book reading amongst children).	Kabul, Herat Mazar	UAEIBBY	2010- 2017	50,000 USD

20	Juvenile Rehabilitation projects and trainings for police and judges to support the children in conflict with the law.	Kabul Herat	CIAI Italian NGO	2014-2016	6,00,000 EURO
21	Community-based Education for young learners' villages in two districts in Herat province	Herat	BRAC Bangladesh	2013-2015	394,740 AFN
22	Community Peace Development and conflict resolution (Different trainings and awareness sessions conducted, CDCs established and are linked with government for further resolution and support).	Mazar	Oxfam GB	2010-2013	3,700,000 AFN
23	Community based education for IDPs and returnees	Herat	BASAID USA	2013 – 2014	26,300 USD
24	Police & Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre Staff capacity building Programme in Herat JRC. Workshops for (Police & Judges) to support the rights of children in conflict with the law.	Herat	IRD	2013 – 2014	47,200 EURO
25	Centre for 1000 Street Working Children (to prepare and educate street working children and integrate them to schools with signed MOU with MOE).	Kabul	EU	2009-2013	2,179,939 EURO
26	Capacity-building trainings for staff of ASCHIANA (to train the social workers and teachers, admin and finance staff of ASCHIANA to increase their capacity in their fields).	Kabul	Swedish committee for Afghanistan	2012	1,000,000 AFN
27	Social protection project: Specially targeted for street-working children, children in conflict with the law, Kuchi's, IDPs and community elders. Emergency Sheltering to street children and integration, and vocational trainings for the marginalized group of children.	Kabul, Mazar Herat	EU	2008-2012	2,100,000 EURO
28	Accelerated Education and Vocational training for higher aged girls	Parwan	Trust in Education	2011	27,000 USD
29	Juvenile Rehab centers (Vocational trainings and promoting literacy). Worked inside rehab centers with both open and close rehab centers for girls and boys.	Herat/Kabul	Italian Corporation for Afghanistan	2010-2011	120,000 EURO
30	Vocational Training for youths (computer and art/painting) to educate street-working children.	Kabul	Us Embassy	2010	39,162 USD

31	Accelerated Education for women	Kabul	PRT Bagram	2009	60,000 USD
32	Emergency protection Centre for separated unaccompanied, trafficked and cross border children.	Kabul	EU	2006 - 2009	260,000 EURO
33	Vocational Training Project: Tailoring and hair dressing for women.	Kabul	Canada Fund	2007	44,011 USD
34	Life Skill Support and health for widows'	Kabul	Canada Fund	2007	22,514 USD
35	Vocational training projects for youths.	Kabul & Mazar	World bank	2006-2007	300,000 USD
36	Integration and Demobilization of child Soldiers (Vocational trainings). The children have been trained and integrated into the society and formal schools.	Parwan	UNICEF	2006	260,000 USD
37	Mobile Health clinics for IDPs. Free check-ups, treatments and medications for IDP families and children.	Kabul	UNHCR	2005	140,000 USD

Partner and Supporters

Our partner and supporters consist of individuals, trusts and foundations, private companies and corporations, United Nation agencies, international non-governmental organizations, government authorities and local communities.

In Afghanistan, Aschiana is actively collaborating at clusters level and is member of the Protection Cluster, Child Protection Cluster, ES-NFI Cluster, Education Cluster, Member of MHPSS Technical Working Group.

Our donors are:

- ✓ Aschiana Foundation, US
- ✓ Friends of Aschiana, UK
- ✓ IBBY
- ✓ TDH Germany
- ✓ UNESCO
- ✓ UNICEF
- ✓ AHF – UNOCHA
- ✓ Linda Norgrove Foundation, UK
- ✓ Global Glow, US
- ✓ Zaanha, US
- ✓ Local and international philanthropists



ASCHIANA

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