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When people ask me now what BRAC stands for, I like to think that we stand for an idea - an idea of a world where everyone has an equal opportunity to realise their potential.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG  
1938 - 2019





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Dear colleagues, partners, and friends of BRAC Afghanistan, It is with immense pride that I am looking back on BRAC Afghanistan's journey in 2024, a year defined by resilience innovation, and commitment to serving communities at the last mile. As we marked 22 years of BRAC's presence in Afghanistan, we take great pride in having positively impacted the lives of over 17 million Afghans across various sectors, fostering sustainable change in some of the most vulnerable communities. We have remained steadfast in our mission to create opportunities and enhance livelihoods despite the complex challenges facing the country.

In education, the Afghan Girls Education initiative has ensured that thousands of children, particularly girls, have access to quality learning opportunities, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and community-driven solutions. Simultaneously, our economic empowerment programmes have enabled women entrepreneurs to establish and sustain businesses, contributing to their families' economic resilience and strengthening local economies.

Collaboration remains central to our work. By engaging closely with local stakeholders, community leaders, and development partners, we have tailored our interventions to address the unique needs of Afghan communities. Through adaptive programming and an innovation-driven approach, we have expanded our reach and ensured that our initiatives remain relevant and impactful in an ever-evolving landscape.

As we look ahead to 2025, BRAC Afghanistan is committed to scaling up its efforts, deepening engagement, and strengthening impact across the country. With the dedication of our staff, the unwavering support of our partners, and the resilience of Afghan communities, we are confident in our collective ability to build a future of opportunity, stability, and hope.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and team members whose dedication and contributions have been instrumental in achieving these milestones. Together, we will continue working towards a more inclusive, and empowered, Afghanistan.

Acting Country Director, BRAC Afghanistan





# BRAC International at a glance

BRAC is an international development organisation that achieves large-scale transformation by empowering women and their families to overcome poverty and become resourceful and resilient.

Inspired by its 50 years of work in Bangladesh, BRAC innovates programmes in multiple countries across Asia and Africa that integrate social development with market-based solutions in partnership with local communities.

BRAC is known for its community-led, holistic approach and delivering long-term impact at scale. We work with communities in marginalised situations, hard-to-reach areas and post-disaster settings, with a particular focus on women and children. Born and proven in the south, BRAC has become a global leader in developing and implementing cost-effective, evidence-based programmes.





# Our Vision

A world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential.



# Our Mission

Our mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. Our interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable women and men to realise their potential.





# BRAC

## across the world



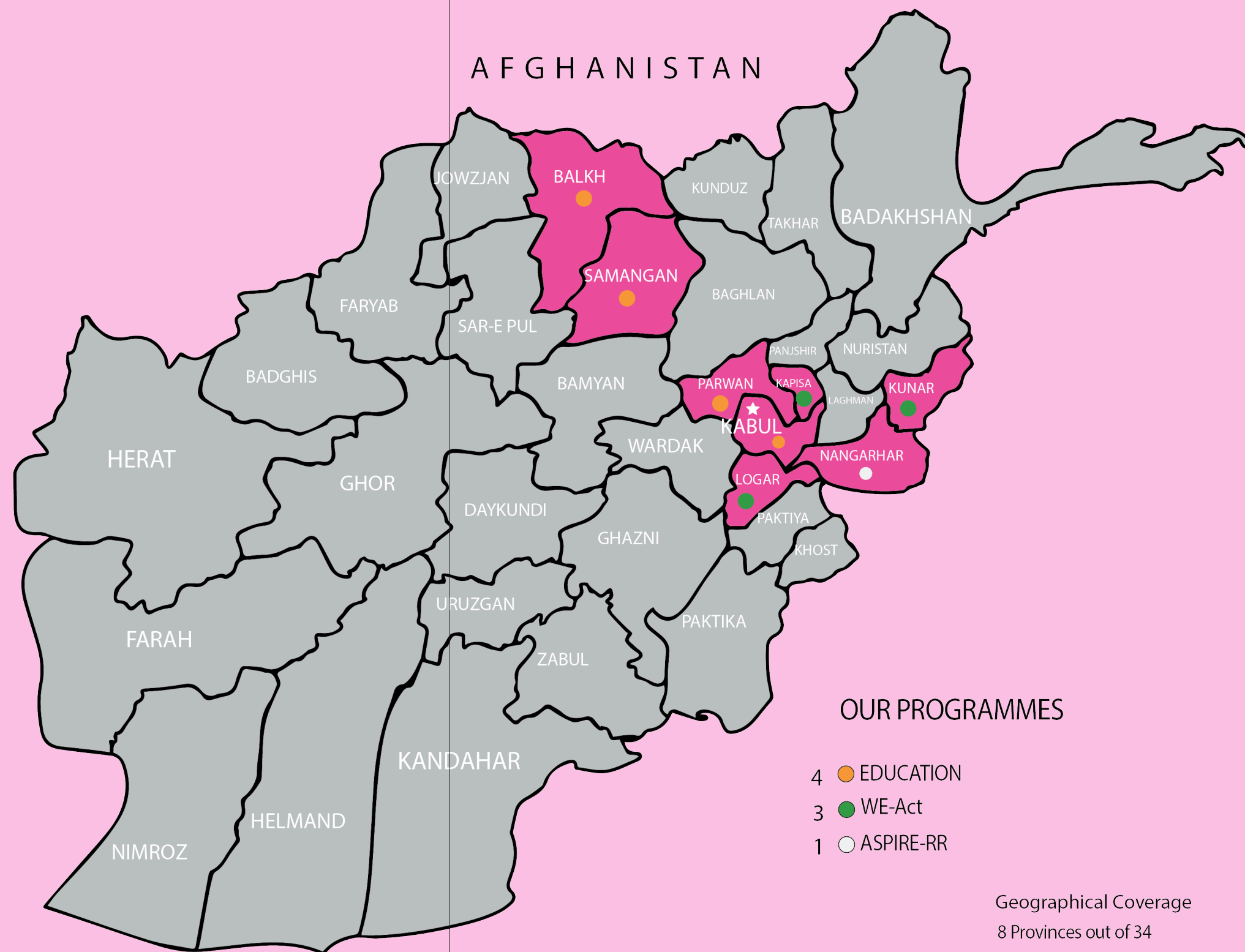
AFSL : Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood	DRMP : Disaster and Risk Management Programme	IDP : Integrated Development Programme	SDP : Skills Development Programme
AIM : Mastercard Foundation Accelerating Impact for Young Women in Partnership with BRAC	ECD : Early Childhood Development	MF : Microfinance	UDP : Urban Development Programme
BEP : BRAC Education Programme	EPRP : Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme	MG : Migration	UPG : Ultra Poor Graduation
BYP : BRAC Young Professionals	GJD : Gender Justice and Diversity	RMG : Readymade Garments	UPGI : Ultra Poor Graduation Initiative
CCP : Climate Change Programme	HCMP : Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme	SE : Social Enterprises	WASH : Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
CD : Communicable Disease	HNPP : Health, Nutrition and Population Programme	SELP : Social Empowerment Legal Protection	YE : Youth Empowerment
DIG : Disability-Inclusive Graduation Programme	HRLS : Human Resources and Legal Aid Services		







# Where do **we work?**







In 2024, BRAC Afghanistan advanced its mission to empower women, youth, and communities in marginalised conditions through education and livelihood initiatives. The ASPIRE and WE-Act projects focused on nurturing women's empowerment, while the Afghan Girls Education through its innovative approach of After School Learning Centre (ASLC) initiative provided educational opportunities for girl students who are being deprived of learning opportunities. These programmes emphasised mostly on skills development, vocational training, entrepreneurship development and access to resources, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and long-term resilience. By working closely with local communities and stakeholders, BRAC Afghanistan has created impactful interventions tailored to the unique challenges faced by the country.





# Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI)

## Overview

The Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) project, funded by UNDP, is a tailored response to the persisting humanitarian crises in Afghanistan. The ABADEI project addresses poverty and vulnerability of Afghan communities, particularly women, and supports community livelihoods and local economic activities, strengthening resilience to climate and disaster risks and promoting community ownership, engagement and social cohesion. The project brings together UN agencies and many of its development partners, including BRAC, to form an area-based integrated programming approach to assist local communities in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

### Strengthening women's economic activity in the private sector (WE-Act) project:

Following the successful implementation of the first and second phases of the flagship programme, the Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI), with a total budget of USD 2.9 million covering 16 provinces, BRAC Afghanistan renewed its partnership with UNDP for the implementation of the “Strengthening Women’s Economic Activity in the Private Sector (WE-Act)” project.

This project is part of the second phase of ABADEI, spanning 16 months from May 2024 to August 2025, with a budget of USD 1.4 million across the three provinces of Kapisa, Kunar, and Logar.

The programme aimed to support Afghan women in rural and urban areas by providing access to finance, entrepreneurship, skills development, and business opportunities. Through this initiative, women-led informal and formal micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be strengthened, enabling them to enhance their economic agency, contribute to the stability of their communities, and participate in the local economic recovery. The rapid needs assessment process, completed in collaboration with local stakeholders and government entities, enabled the project team to identify six key sectors for intervention: Bakery, Carpet Weaving, Agriculture, Embroidery, Food Processing, and Tailoring. These sectors were selected based on their potential for income generation and alignment with local market demands. Verification of participants was conducted in close partnership with UNDP and the Directorate of Industry and Commerce (DoIC) to ensure transparency and fairness.

In terms of direct participant engagement, significant strides were made in conducting capacity-building training for 540 micro-enterprises across the three target provinces. The five-day business management training commenced in all targeted provinces in partnership with Shatoot Consultancy, followed by pre and post tests from the participants, with active monitoring by BRAC Afghanistan and UNDP staff. The training sessions were designed to comprehensively address the needs of women entrepreneurs, covering; Business Management, Business Proposal Development, Marketing Strategy, Entrepreneurship Development, and Safeguarding Training.

Following the project’s activities and outputs, significant progress has also been achieved in the financial support component. The 540 micro-entrepreneurs (MEs) are eligible to receive a total financial package, including \$1,000 in cash support and \$400 in in-kind support, provided over the project timeline. By the end of December, the first installment of \$400 cash grants was successfully disbursed to 515 project participants. Additionally, a second installment of \$350 was distributed to 360 MEs in the second batch through Aziz Bank across all three provinces. This process was closely monitored by UNDP and local authorities to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency.







## Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI)

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## Cash Grants Distribution

to Micro Enterprises MEs

Strengthening Women's Economic  
(WE-Act) Project  
Kabul, Afghanistan

## Objectives

- Provide capacity-building support to 540 informal micro-enterprises and to 60 existing local formal SMEs to expand or set up new businesses.
- Provide equipment to 540 informal micro enterprises to expand or set up new businesses.
- Provide financial support (grants) to the 540 informal micro-enterprises and 60 existing local formal SMEs to expand their businesses.

## Key numbers

**540** women-led micro-enterprises (MEs) received five-day business management and capacity building training to develop their business plans.

**USD 400** Cash grant per participant distributed to 515 Micro Enterprises in the first batch.

**USD 350** Cash grant per participant distributed to 360 Micro Enterprises in the second batch.





# Afghan Women's Sustainable Progress in Resilience and Economic Empowerment (ASPIRE):

## Overview

BRAC Afghanistan, in partnership with UN Women, launched the ASPIRE project to support women entrepreneurs across five provinces. The project provided training in livelihood and business development, access to assets, equipment, and start-up capital and mentoring to enhance women's business management skills, increase their sales and profits, and improve their decision-making capacities.

## Objectives

- Strengthen business, management, and entrepreneurial skills of targeted women.
- Provide asset and equipment support for women-led micro and small enterprises.
- Establish regular coaching, mentoring, and alumni groups to support sustainability and resilience.
- Promote women's decision-making power, market access, and community participation.

## ASPIRE – Afghan Returnees Response (ARR) Project

The Afghan Returnees Response (ASPIRE-RR) project, as the second phase of the ASPIRE initiative, is designed to support the economic reintegration of Afghan returnees in Nangarhar province, particularly those from Pakistan. The project focuses on economic empowerment, skills development, and small business support to ensure sustainable livelihoods and smooth social reintegration.

## Key components of the ASPIRE Project:

- A six-day intensive training programme was conducted for 300 female participants, covering essential business development and management skills.
- Training topics included business planning, financial literacy, enterprise operations, and business pitching techniques.
- Microenterprise development to boost local economies.
- A two-day bootcamp was organised across five provinces, where 30 out of the 60 trained participants in each province were selected for further support based on their business potential.
- In-kind support, including assets, toolkits, and machinery, was provided to 150 participants to either establish or sustain their businesses.
- Working capital and cash payments were distributed to the selected 150 participants, ensuring they had the necessary financial resources to launch or expand their enterprises.



## Business incubation and mentorship

- Weekly field visits were conducted by BRAC Afghanistan staff to provide one-on-one coaching and mentoring to participants at their homes or workplaces.
- These visits focused on problem-solving, guiding participants through challenges, and monitoring their business progress.
- The project maintained ongoing collaboration with UN Women and other key stakeholders at the community, district, provincial, and national levels, ensuring alignment with broader economic empowerment strategies.
- By integrating training, financial assistance, and continuous mentorship, ASPIRE created sustainable economic opportunities for Afghan women, strengthening local economies, and enhancing the resilience of IDPs and host communities.

## Key numbers

**20-day** TVET refresher training conducted for 300 participants

**300** participants received hygiene and dignity kits.  
350 participants provided with in-kind support (assets, toolkits, machinery).

**USD 320** in working capital and cash payments was provided to each of the 300 participants to support their small businesses.

**USD 525** per participant was provided to 50 mentees, and USD 3,750 was distributed to 12 mentors as apprenticeship payments.





# Education Programme

## Overview

Afghanistan struggles with a range of issues in its education system, with remote areas being beyond the reach of mainstream educational services. Limited access to quality education, insufficient training and capacity development of teachers and cultural barriers, particularly for girls, continue to hinder progress. BRAC Afghanistan prioritises joyful learning and engages participatory approaches for social-emotional learning, play, and character development. Our community-driven network of programmes includes pre-primary, primary, and secondary levels, as well as accelerated learning for adolescents, especially girls who have dropped out of or never attended school. We mobilise communities in favour of girls' education.

## Objectives

- Improve access to education through comprehensive education interventions.
- Train and enhance the capacity of teachers.
- Accelerate learning for out-of-school adolescent girls.
- Mobilise communities to advocate for girls' education.

## Afghan Girls Education (AGE): After School Learning Center (ASLC) Initiative

For the past four years, the Afghan Girls' Education (AGE) project has been successfully implemented by BRAC across various provinces in Afghanistan, making education accessible for thousands of Afghan girls and improving their learning through the community-based education approach by funding from Global Affairs Canada. However, following the Afghanistan government's change in policy on girls education, the AGE project had to adapt to the changing context.

In response to evolving educational needs in Afghanistan, BRAC introduced the After School Learning Center (ASLC) model. ASLCs go beyond traditional academics, offering 21st-century skills, psychosocial support (MHPSS), and safe learning spaces, ensuring continued education and opportunities for Afghan girls in a dynamic context.

The project aims to ensure equal opportunities and improved learning outcomes for Afghan girls and boys. Activities in ASL's model include life skills training, digital literacy programs, and academic support to help bridge gaps left by traditional systems, fostering resilience and empowerment in a challenging environment.







Direct Student: 3,800 students (5% students with disabilities) across 38 hub schools in four provinces (Kabul, Parwan, Balkh and Samangan).  
Indirect Student: 7,000 parents, 76 ASLC teachers, 266 community group members, local leaders, and government officials.

BRAC collaborates with its implementation partner, WDIO, providing operational, and strategic support to ensure the effective execution of the AGE After-School Learning Center project.

## Key numbers

**76** After School Learning Centers (ASLCs) established across 38 locations.

**1,900** students enrolled in the first batch (1,710 females and 190 males).

**38** community groups formed to support the initiative.

**380** laptops and 38 solar panel systems procured and installed in classrooms.

**Capacity-building sessions conducted:**

**10-day** teacher training for 76 newly recruited teachers





# Stories of change





## How one Afghan woman navigated poverty while living with disability

Hannan (not her real name), a 29-year-old woman from Afghanistan was left with physical disabilities after she contracted polio as a child. She grew up in a household comprising eight other family members. Money was tight so Hannan decided to go into tailoring to support her family. She earned around AFG 6,000 per month, which is equivalent to around USD 85. But the money was not enough to meet the needs of the family.

Hannan's vision was clear: she wanted to rise above her circumstances and achieve financial independence. Hannan saw that opportunity present itself when she learned about the ASPIRE project, being implemented by BRAC in Afghanistan. After joining the project, Hannan received a cow, a cash grant of AFG 15,000 equivalent to about USD 200. She also went through comprehensive training in business development and management.

With the new set of skills she had acquired, Hannan decided to launch a dairy business, selling milk, yogurt, and other products in her community. The new venture not only helped diversify her income but also doubled her earnings.

Her monthly income now exceeds AFG 10,000 which is equivalent to USD 140 owing to both her businesses, tailoring and dairy products sale, allowing her to save some money for the first time.

She now has her eyes set on expansion and she plans to invest in more cows and goats. She wants her small business to be a full-scale dairy farm some day.

Hannan continues to aspire to grow further and is also doing her bit to inspire others in her community.



# Financial overview

## Programme cost by nature of programme

Programmes	Budget 2024	Budget Utilisation 2024	% Utilisation 2024
	Amount (USD)	Amount (USD)	Burn Rate
Strengthening Women's Economic Activity in the Private Sector (WE-Act)	700,000	715,852	102%
Womens' Sustainable Progress in Resilience and Economic empowerment (ASPIRE)	449,492.00	735,655	164%
Afghanistan Girls Education (AGE)	1,483,603	1,218,376	82%
Total	2,633,095	2,669,883	101,4%

# Country Management Team (CMT)



**Madhavan Ati**  
Acting, Country Director & Head of Programme



**Saifullah Saifi**  
Head of Programme Operations



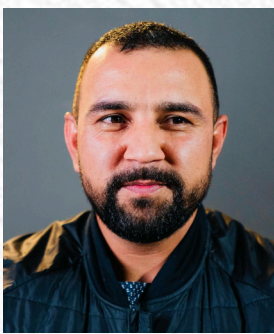
**Sheikh Mahbubul Alam**  
Head of Finance



**Lailuma Kakar**  
Gender Specialist



**Mohammad Farooq Ahmadi**  
Project Manager



**Faisal Noori**  
Manager Security & Government Liaison



**Muzamil Haqmal**  
M&E Specialist



**Najmuddin Qeyami**  
Manager, Procurement



**Shirjan Mujahid**  
IT Manager



**Shabir Ahmad Walizy**  
Acting HR Manager



**Shamsheer Khan**  
Sr. Audit Officer



**Abdul Bari Hashmi**  
Reporting and Communication Officer



**BRAC**

Afghanistan, Kabul City, District #2,  
Baharistan, butcher street, lane #4  
left, house #4

Phone : +93 (0) 704074244

Email : [bracafghanistan@brac.net](mailto:bracafghanistan@brac.net)

Website: <https://bracinternational.org/afghanistan/>

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