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Our Vision is to provide a sustainable future within a secure environment for disadvantaged Afghan women and children.

## Mission

Mahboba's Promise aims to provide effective overseas development aid to disadvantaged Afghan women, widows, children and orphans. We will achieve this through sustainable development programs such as the establishment of schools, health clinics and community facilities destined to be operated by local authorities and communities.

## Values and Principles

- To achieve our Mission, we will honour the values of compassion for people in need and effectively impact on their circumstances while embracing standards of practice that ensure integrity, honesty, transparency and due diligence.
- In developing our aid programs, we will strive to:
- (a) build the morale of people affected by conflict so that they have motivation to reconstruct their country;
- (b) restore faith in the future for the people of Afghanistan through the example of quality workers delivering aid services;
- (c) consider and consult experts in relation to cultural practices and beliefs to identify and meet the best interests of Afghan women, widows, children and orphans;
- (d) establish self-sufficiency in individuals and sustainable outcomes in community projects in the programs that we provide;
- (e) enhance the quality of life of our beneficiaries through education and employment training;
- (f) have effective consultation with all stakeholders including beneficiaries and value their participation in our programs;
- g) secure basic human rights including the principles of gender equality and child protection in our program design;
- (h) be equitable and non-discriminatory in the distribution of our aid;
- (i) follow best practices and give due consideration to issues of sustainable ecological and resource management in our aid programs.
  - In our Governance, we will endeavour to be professional and accountable and compliant by:
- (a) offering the public and organisations in Australia and elsewhere, a trusted and acceptable mechanism by which they may contribute funds to worthy projects to assist Afghan women, widows, children and orphans;
- (b) ensuring that the Association is at all times financially responsible;
- (c) developing, implementing and reviewing the Policies and Procedures of the Association.



## Message from our Patron, Mahboba Rawi

This year I have visited Afghanistan twice. The first time I was accompanied by Virginia Haussegger the face of Canberra ABC News who came in an unofficial capacity to see the country first hand. This was wonderful as it enabled her to generate valuable publicity for our organisation when she returned home. It had been two years since I had been in Afghanistan and I am disappointed to report that things have not improved, in fact conditions have deteriorated and so many people still live in extreme poverty and are suffering.

While I was there I spent a lot of time at Hope House chatting with the children. This gave me an opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished over the years with our various programs. When I started Mahboba's Promise my goal was to start a charity that would put aid straight into the hands of the people who needed it. And this is what Mahboba's Promise is doing, going to the root, not the top of the tree.

The programs we have implemented over the last 10 years have been life changing for many Afghans. By providing them with knowledge whether in the form of an education or teaching them a skill so they can live in dignity, we have made a significant difference to many lives.

There is still so much that needs to be done and it pains me when I visit to see such suffering. However, I am realistic enough to accept we cannot help everyone. Over the next five years, in a joint venture with Muslim Aid we plan to invest over AUS\$500,000 in Permaculture projects to assist Afghan farmers with their skills and teach them how to maximise the limited tillable land.

Our Gifts that Give program provides a valuable resource for the widows and children and often means the difference of life or death to them.



My visits to Afghanistan make me truly appreciative of my life in Australia. Here I have medical care, I can drive myself anywhere, there are trees, water comes from a tap and we have electricity at the flick of a switch. Knowing I have so much, makes me more determined to share it with others who are less fortunate.

Thank you for your support which has enabled me to help many people live in dignity and given them hope to believe they will have a future.





## From the Chair

Mahboba's Promise Inc is a non-profit, voluntary association in Sydney, which raises funds to help improve the lives of poverty-stricken women and children in Afghanistan.

Mahboba Rawi started her work ten years ago when she first sent \$120 to a young Afghan doctor in Peshawar, Pakistan who asked for help for the refugee children literally starving to death at her door. From these small beginnings grew an organisation which has sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to projects to alleviate poverty and helped to educate thousands of children who might otherwise not have had a chance to improve their lives. Funds have also been used to build schools and infrastructure which will benefit generations of children to come.

Since my appointment as Chairman in August 2007, the Committee has worked hard to increase personal responsibility to guarantee the Association's high organisational, governance and financial standards.

We acknowledge our extreme gratitude to all of the Kabul staff who continually work under such very difficult circumstances. Led by Sidiq Rawi from Afghanistan, and Mahboba Rawi from Sydney, the success of our work in Afghanistan is wholly thanks to the Rawi family. Through their vision, passion, commitment and dedication they work together to ensure a better quality of life for disadvantaged women and children in Afghanistan.

All members of the Management Committee are officially committed to very high professional and ethical standards in accordance with our Code of Ethics. The Constitution guides us and keeps us committed to complying with our regulatory commitments.

Our two year strategic plan has considerably moved forward this year with our OAGDS application now completed and submitted to AusAID in September. Potentially this could mean we will achieve our Tax Deductibility status in mid 2010, a long awaited goal almost finally come to fruition. Gill Shaddick played a big part in this achievement. having dedicated implementing and improving processes during the last few years. Unfortunately we said farewell to Gill who left us earlier this year for an overseas adventure when she and her family relocated to New Zealand during March, and we wish them all the very best for their new life. Lynn Brewster replaced Gill in March and since her appointment as Finance & Administration Manager she has worked hard to complete the work that Gill started and finalise our application. Lynn relocated from the UK earlier this year and she and Mahboba have worked in unison this year, driven by their similar passion and commitment to ensuring the very best life for as many disadvantaged people as possible in Afghanistan. We welcome Lynn and wish her a long and successful time with us all here at Mahboba's Promise.

We are now all looking forward to a peaceful and successful 2010.

#### **Don Gough**

Chairman

Mahboba's Promise Inc







## Goals

Through our combined efforts and commitment, almost all of our current goals are nearing completion. Since the submission of our OAGDS application, our Tax Deductible Status is now well within our sights. Also, after ten years of working from Mahboba Rawi's home, we are in the process of finalising lease negotiations on an office space in North Ryde which will benefit us all enormously. Firstly this will give Mahboba and her family their home back. Secondly this can now allow the organisation to grow, which will help us greatly in our goal to help even more widows and orphans in Afghanistan.

Mahboba has now set herself a personal goal and aims to double the fundraising income during 2010 with the help of an assistant.

Since progressing from welfare projects into the development arena some years ago, our reputation in both Australia and Afghanistan has improved dramatically. We have a number of development success stories and to name a recent triumph, we now have previously uneducated widows almost self sufficient running their own beautician salon in Kabul. These women are empowered, they have increased self confidence, self esteem and it is through their commitment to succeed that helps drive us on. It is the strength of the Afghan people that humbles us and confirms our commitment to do whatever we can to help. We are breaking our set target of committing 70% of all funds to development projects and actually sending 78%, which is greatly working towards the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Mahboba's Promise is committed to working hard to ensure that every single cent of donated money is guaranteed to help the disadvantaged of Afghanistan.

## Relationships with Implementing Partners

Our work in Australia is to raise funds to facilitate projects in Afghanistan to carry out our mission and vision. Our primary implementing agency in Afghanistan is Mahboba's Promise – an NGO registered in Afghanistan with the Ministry of Economy, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

We have finally completed our submission to ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief) and expect to gain our membership very soon.

We are working hard to build new relationships with implementing partners, which has the same or similar values and ethics as ourselves.





## News from Afghanistan & Australia

Unfortunately Afghanistan is still in a very unstable situation, and the recent elections have only added to the future uncertainty for the people. Corruption remains a contributing factor as a recent 4 Corners program highlighted, with millions of dollars being unfortunately misspent each year.

The dramatic increase in food prices has further hindered the already struggling Afghans. The cost of a 25kg bag of rice is \$37 and when you consider the average wage is less than a dollar a day, you can only be in awe of how these people continue to survive against all the odds. On a brighter note however, salaries are now on the increase which is good for the people and the economy.

Despite the continuing bleak outlook, the year for Mahboba's Promise has been successful. Our team has continued to achieve the goals set and maintained and improved relations between the two countries. We have received a visit and support from Martin Quinn, the Australian Ambassador in Kabul who stated "I would like to congratulate Mahboba's on the fine work they are doing to help both widows and orphans. The Australian Embassy in Kabul is proud to be associated with Mahboba's Promise and pleased our donations for vocational training and education have been put to good use."

The Governor General, Quentin Bryce has also forged an alliance, committing to help raise awareness for our cause.

We have gained two new corporate sponsors this year, and we are indebted to them and all of our continuing sponsors and donors for their support; we couldn't do this without you.

## Visitors To and From Afghanistan

In April this year, Mahboba returned to Afghanistan along with a whole host of visitors. Amin Palangi and his wife Sanaz, a filmmaking couple spent a month there making a documentary of our work. Palwesha Yusaf, a photographer also went along to help work with Mahboba for a month and run a photography course for the orphans in Hope House. Virginia Haussegger, an ABC journalist also accompanied Mahboba on a personal visit to see Afghanistan first hand for herself.

More recently a new volunteer Virginia Joy went out and joined our Kabul team for a month and quickly became a valued worker helping everyone at Hope House with their English, especially the children. She has been wonderful with the orphans, inspiring creativity in even the youngest of our children. I am sure Virginia's unique and passionate creativity will stay with them, and continue to inspire from afar until she returns again.

Another wonderful volunteer Margaret Brown offered her assistance and personally delivered toys for our kindergarten program which were obtained by another passionate volunteer Karla Eyre.



## Summary of Program Activities

#### Life Saving Operation a Success!

After his successful operation and recuperation time here in Australia, Seair has now rejoined his family in the Panjshir Valley and continues to be happy and healthy. We are all indebted to ROMAC and Dr Angus Gray for their unfailing

support of Seair in his time of need, along with a whole host of supporters. It is with their help and yours that we have guaranteed a future for a bright, polite and very charming, happy child that could otherwise have turned out so very differently.

## Hope House Community & Training Centre, Medical & Dental Centre, Kabul

The continued success of Hope House, working together with the local community has quickly become an important Centre for the local people, and many are participating in education, recreation and vocational training.

Additional roof space and a fire escape is being added to Hope House with the help of Muslim Aid Australia and the Morawetz Social Justice Fund. This will allow the extra space to help our Vocational Quilting Course continue.

With the support of Variety Club and donors, Mahboba's Promise opened a Medical Centre in April to provide medical and dental care for Hope House orphans and widows, as well as the local community.

This facility is staffed by four local doctors. Demand for the clinic has been so great, the doctors agreed to extend their hours during the initial start up phase at no extra charge to Mahboba's Promise.

For the widows and orphans, the clinic provides their only hope of medical care.

Kitchen improvements have recently been approved and work is planned to start very soon. A new Greywater System has also been approved and work has started allowing the residential water to be reused for other purposes rather than wasted.

The Kulsom Garden is starting to flourish which helps keep food prices down and ensures chemical free, organic produce for our children which is wholly beneficial for their health.

As soon as the winter has passed, work will begin on the Anqi Garden, with the land now secured this will allow more much needed space for healthy home grown produce.

#### Positive Education Outcomes

With the help of Muslim Aid Australia, this very successful program continues to help improve educational outcomes both for individual orphans and communities. Together, we remove the economic hurdles which prevent many children gaining an education. We provide uniforms, school kits and school fees. Education in Afghanistan is free, but schools are so short of funds, many instigate informal charges.

Schools and teachers face great difficulties without even basic resources such as blackboards and stationery.

This project addresses these issues through removing the hurdles for children to go to school, providing supplementary education to improve outcomes, recreation for physical and emotional development and making sure children have food for the day so they can concentrate at school. We also support local schools by providing resources and improvements. The program is run in Kabul, Panjshir Valley and Takhar.

This program is funded from sponsorship contributions and general donations.



#### Kabul

Altogether we employ nine teachers at our community centres in Kabul. Our main centre is Hope House which is a real community hub. In addition to supporting children with the local curriculum, the children learn art, are taught gardening and cooking. Each new child that comes to the centre for residential care is given a tree to plant in the garden. This symbolic act connects the children with the land, gives them something of their own to nurture and helps them to feel part of the wider community.

Recreation receives a lot of attention. The children we are helping have come from very different ethnic backgrounds and all have been through emotional or physical trauma or both. A great leveller is recreation. It builds friendships across barriers of age and other divides, improves coordination and physical development. The

Panjshir Valley
Abdara Primary School, Panjshir Valley,
Afghanistan

2000 students are now studying in the Panjshir Valley, a place where previously no females had ever been allowed to have an education.

Female teachers are still employed and transported into the region each day at vast expense to allow the girls the education they deserve. We do receive some help from the Government for this, however it is essential that we contribute towards costs to enable this to continue.

Takhar

Takhar suffered a severe earthquake ten years ago which devastated families and left many children orphaned. Children were scattered to refugee camps and we helped with repatriation and set up the Roostoq District Community Education Training Centre which has two teachers and ancillary staff. There are 35 orphans resident at the centre who attend the Roostoq High School each morning. In the afternoon they attend classes and recreational activities at the Centre together with approximately 20 disadvantaged children from the local community. The centre is

taekwondo classes continue to be a great success with many boys and girls excelling.

In a joint venture with the Planet Wheeler Foundation, we are planning to build a gymnasium next year which will enable the children to keep up their exercise programs all year round.

For Bibi Hawa School we rebuilt three classrooms allowing the students and teachers a safe place to work from. Upon receipt of more funds, they have another 15 classrooms that all need work to be completely safe.

The children at Hazrat-Ali House in Kabul which is managed by Mahboba's Uncle, Haji Faizal Ahmad, continue to do well at their studies and treat Uncle Haji with the greatest respect.

A boy's school continues to run in the Valley close to the Girls' School with funds from another overseas NGO. They supplied the building for this project, and we continue to support the boys with stationery and sporting equipment as necessary.

proving very popular as it gives the opportunity to children who have been severely disadvantaged to gain self-confidence, achieve at school and make friendships. The centre also interacts with the wider community – it has a soccer team and a volleyball team which continue to do well in local competitions.

Future plans for Takhar are the rebuilding of a new, bigger centre and we hope to start works within the next year.

#### Badakshan

The School in Badakshan continues to be run by local authorities, since we handed it over. The village elders are extremely grateful for this wonderful school and it will create many excellent opportunities for thousands of children over the years.

This School was built in memory of Ronald Stone by his sister, one of our long term supporters.





#### Vocational Training

#### Sewing and Tailoring Courses

These courses started in October 2007. The initial capital came from an AusAID Direct Aid Program (DAP) grant through the Australian Embassy in Kabul. Many widows are now well on their way to becoming self sufficient after enrolling in these courses.

#### Beautician Course

The beautician courses are very popular with the widows and we now have several graduates who are working their way towards self sufficiency for the first time in their lives. The course incorporates classes on adult literacy and managing money.

The widow's graduating from the tailoring and beautician courses are all being helped towards employment or setting up their own businesses.

#### Computer Training for Youths

A computer room was set up at Hope House during 2007 and basic computer skills are being taught for children and young adults.

#### Houses for Progress

This is a fund which is able to help widows with repairs or extensions to their houses under specific circumstances. With students graduating from the beautician and tailoring courses, some widows need repairs or extensions which will enable them to run small business from home.

#### Health Fund

Our established crisis health fund makes funds available at the discretion of the Director in Kabul to be able to respond quickly to medical emergencies among the widows and orphans we support. With this fund, the staff on the ground in Afghanistan can react quickly to emergencies and feel secure knowing that they can help.

#### Livestock Management Program

This project is supported by the Loom Growers, a Bega Valley Community Group. Selected widows in rural areas are given a cow in calf, or poultry. When the calf is 18 months old, the widow returns the calf to Mahboba's Promise to go to another widow. We support the widow to help her prepare for the cow, with animal husbandry advice.

#### Quilting Course

This is an initiative designed for widows to help them to purchase the materials, make professional quilts and sell them in the market place and create a market through other NGO's. It has been set up with funds raised at the IWD breakfast in Canberra. This course was temporarily put on hold because of space issues however with the roof extension project nearing completion; we plan to re-start this course next year.

#### Jaghori Vocational Training

Until signed agreements are in place, we no longer support Jaghori through the Ufuq Welfare Society (UWS), an NGO running vocational English and computer training classes in Jaghori.

#### Panjshir Valley Medical Centre

The medical centre was handed over to the authorities to continue running after the initial successful set up and running of this project for years.

#### Welfare-outreach

Rising prices, continued violence and future uncertainty have impacted on the poorest of society once more. Our widows continue to struggle as rising prices eat away at their meagre purses and the harsh winter comes around again. Every year, we prepare the widows early for winter by providing them with fuel, warm clothes and staple foods.

#### Pakistan Projects

Remittances to widows finished in December 2008 as planned although occasional help has been extended to families who have found themselves with adverse circumstances they cannot overcome.





## Summary of Ancillary Projects and Appeals

#### Donations in kind

We have received many kind donations this year including shipments of shoes, thermal vests and t-shirts, knitted hats, scarves and jumpers, and a lot of clothing collected by staff at Bayer, and other donors which has all been wonderful and wholly appreciated by all the orphans. It is a difficult time for us to send goods to Afghanistan due to very expensive shipping costs. We hope to send another container during 2010 and funds will be raised for the shipment costs beforehand.

#### Harmony Day

Harmony Day was celebrated in both Australia and the Panjshir Valley this year. Students from Lane Cove School sent postcards to the girl's school in Afghanistan to help encourage and promote worldwide harmony.

#### Annual appeals

Muslim Aid contributed to the Feed the Fasting program, along with nearly 140 donors which enabled us to undertake our Qurban in many areas in Afghanistan, and in Pakistan. The annual Qurban appeal provided fresh and dried meat which gives the widows and their families some food security for a short period.

Our Winter Appeal is now well underway, and to date we have raised over \$16,000 which will go a long way to help feed and keep warm many more families this year than ever before.

## Publicity and Fundraising

It has been another very demanding year as will always be the case while Afghanistan's future remains so uncertain.

As ever, we are humbled by the tireless, passionate support we have received from both our volunteers and donors. It is with your help that we are starting to see a change in many lives, giving disadvantaged people hope and helping them to see they are loved and they can start to build themselves a sustainable future.

We have seen another year of such diversity in fundraising efforts, from garage sales, stalls at local fairs, chocolate sales, insurance sales, dinner events, raffles, collection tins, film evenings and friends groups helping to raise awareness,

We are indebted to our corporate sponsors whose support is invaluable to us.

To all of our personal donors, the Australian public, we couldn't achieve what we have without your generosity and vision for a better world for all.

The sponsorship program remains an invaluable project for us, helping us to plan into the future for so many children and women. Your sponsorship donations directly change lives instantly, stopping children from begging on the streets and giving them an education. Allowing widows the chance to gain a vocational skill and become self sufficient enabling her to look after her children. For this we are truly grateful for supporting us.

Mahboba's book is a wonderful story which has touched so many people's hearts and continues to do so. We eagerly await her continuing story when her very limited free time permits.

Virginia Haussegger and the ABC have been very valuable supporters, raising awareness for Mahboba's Promise in Canberra and countrywide, helping us to spread the word much further afield than our limited resources allow.



## Schools Promise Report

Many schools have continued to raise funds and awareness helping their sister schools in Afghanistan with both support and much needed funds. New classrooms have been built enabling students to learn in safety. A netball court has been built, helping to encourage healthy active lifestyles which are so important to healthy development.

We have received continuing support from the Schools Peace Initiative, hosted by the Sydney Peace Foundation. This year several students were presents with Citizen of Peace Awards, giving thanks for their support over the last few years.

Many schools continue to join the program helping us to improve education in Afghanistan for as many students as we possibly can.

Thank you to Asquith Girls High School, Al-Faisal College, Cherrybrook Technology High School, Malek Fahd Islamic School, Muirfield High School, Northmead High School, Arkana College, Macarthur Girls High School, Waverley College and Lane Cove School. Your support is invaluable to us.

## Muslim Ladies Volunteers Group

- *Ramadan Fundraising Dinner:* A successful fundraising event, attended by over 250 guests. Close to \$55,000 was raised, including project donations and ongoing sponsorship commitments.
- **New Marketing Literature:** Updated brochures have been developed by a husband and wife team who have done fantastic work on all of our artwork throughout the year.

## Volunteers

We quite simply could not do this without you. Your continued commitment and passion inspires us to drive on forward wholeheartedly. Without you, we could not continue to send over 85% of all donations to help where it really matters most. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Groups in Sydney, Bega, the Blue Mountains, Brisbane and Melbourne have all contributed significantly during the year. The Muslim Ladies Group helped increase contributions from the Muslim community in Sydney and worked very hard during Ramadan to raise funds and awareness. Volunteers in the office have been very committed to their work and helped enormously with administration and the running of daily operations.

### Muslim Aid Australia

The continued relationship and support we receive from Muslim Aid throughout the year on our Tax Deductibility through our Positive Education program, as well as our other programs is so important to us and we hope for it to continue for a long time to come.





## Governance and Current Members of the Management Committee ~ 30 June 2009

We held eleven meetings during the year. There was only one change to the composition of the committee.

Greg Rich joined the Management Committee during the year and we welcome him on board. Greg is CEO of a Management Company.

## The Composition of the Committee

Current Members of the Management Committee:					
	Name	Position	Occupation	Date Appointed	Meetings
1	Don Gough	President	Consultant in spoken communications	AGM 20/12/2007	10/11
2	Kris Needham	Vice-President	Education consultant & executive coach	AGM 20/12/2007	10/11
3	Phil Kerrigan	Treasurer	Retired accountant	AGM 20/12/2007	10/11
4	Tania Melikian	Secretary	Property & facilities manager	AGM 20/12/2007	6/11
5	Sidiq Rawi	Ordinary member	Executive Director-Afghan operations	AGM 20/12/2007	7/11
6	Doug Tribe	Ordinary member	Retired Businessman	AGM 20/12/2008	8/9
7	Ronia Elmaarraoui	Ordinary member	Healthcare Research	AGM 22/12/2008	4/11
8	Greg Rich	Ordinary member	CEO in a Managment Company	AGM 22/12/2009	6/6
9	Vacancy				
10	Vacancy				





Other members who have served during the year 2008-2009:					
1	Elizabeth Giles	Ordinary	Speech	AGM	
		member	Pathologist	20/12/2008	
2	Aisha Meguid	Ordinary	School	AGM	
		member	Teacher	20/12/2008	

#### At the end of the year the sub-committee were as follows:

Current Sub-Committees & responsibilities		
	Name	Chair
1	Schools Promise	Kris Needham
2	Muslim Fundraising	Aisha Meguid
3	Rapid Response	Don Gough
4	Rapid Response	Phil Kerrigan
5	Grants	Phil Kerrigan
6	Child Protection Officer	Kris Needham
7	Communications Officer	Aisha Meguid
8	Volunteer Officer	Ronia Elmaarraoui
9	Remuneration Sub-Committee	Phil Kerrigan





# And last but by no means least, an enormous thank you to our corporate sponsors...



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## Code of Conduct

Mahboba's Promise Inc is a signatory to Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct which defines minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for non-government development organisations. Adherence to the Code is monitored by an independent Code of Conduct Committee elected from the NGO community. Our voluntary adherence to the Code of Conduct demonstrates our commitment to ethical practice and public accountability.



More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be obtained from Mahboba's Promise Inc and from ACFID at:

Website: www.acfid.asn.au Email: code@acfid.asn.au

Tel: (02) 62851816



