



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

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Cover Image: One of our Widows employed at the Dairy Co-op seen here with two of her five Children.

Photo: Amy Jean Harding

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

The work of Mahboba Rawi and of everyone at Mahboba's Promise has continued to inspire me over this past year. The value and impact of their work on the ground in Afghanistan cannot be overstated. The passion, energy and commitment with which they do their job, in often difficult circumstances, is commendable.

The organisation's holistic approach sees them providing practical assistance and relief to the needy, as well as opening up access to education and vocational training programmes for widows and orphans. The skills gained lead individuals, families and communities towards a state of self sufficiency; where they are able to provide for themselves and live their lives independently.

As Afghanistan prepares for the withdrawal of troops in 2014, the work Mahboba's Promise does to support the country's most vulnerable has never been more important. During this time the local reputation of Mahboba's Promise; that it is honest, free from corruption and all aid goes directly to the vulnerable individuals and communities of Afghanistan will go a long way to instilling confidence in both donors and beneficiaries.

I am proud to be patron of Mahboba's Promise and support every effort the organisation makes to improve the lives of Afghanistan's widows and children. Mahboba herself continues to be a source of inspiration to me, and a dear personal friend. I am lucky to have witnessed her achieve many special things in the name of her people.



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia



FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT



Photo: Sanaz Fotouhi

A lot has changed for Mahboba's Promise over the last 12 months. It has been challenging in many ways, but I am pleased to see the organisation adapting and moving forward.

It has been a difficult year for us in terms of raising funds. The tragic situation in Syria has meant some of our key donors have diverted their donations to help those suffering, and simply cannot afford to support the rebuilding of Afghanistan too. My heart breaks whenever I see suffering of this scale, anywhere in the world. But it strengthens my resolve and my focus to help create a better life for my people in Afghanistan.

In the Sydney office we have made a lot of progress towards our goal of applying for AusAID accreditation. We have been lucky enough to see an increase in the number of highly qualified and motivated volunteers donating their time to making our organisation more effective. I am so excited to see the youth and energy in the team that have stepped up to move Mahboba's Promise forward. The Sydney office gives me so much confidence for the future, just seeing their hard work and enthusiasm makes me sure we will continue to make a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable and needy in Afghanistan. I am so grateful to be surrounded by such a dedicated team.

Our work in Afghanistan continues to provide life saving care. We have put a lot of energy over the past year into our 'Hope Houses' in Kabul, Panjshir and Takhar. Each Hope House provides safety and a loving environment for orphans, and watching them grow up under our care makes me so proud. The centres provide the communities in which they stand hope for their futures. The existence of hope in Afghanistan remains rare, and can be life-changing.

The continued support of the Governor General of Australia means a great deal to me personally and to Mahboba's Promise. I feel blessed to have the support of our patron's entire office. With the right team around me I feel so hopeful for the future of Mahboba's Promise. We will be moving forward together, united in our vision of a better future for Afghanistan.

Thank you for all of your support.

Mahboba Rawi

President and Founding Director
Mahboba's Promise Inc.



REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This year has seen a great deal of change for Mahboba's Promise, including the sad departure of our Executive Officer Gill Shaddick in March 2013, who was a complete powerhouse and was responsible for significant change and improvement within the organisation.

Gill has since been replaced by Alnoor Dawood as Operations Manager and he has been very capably managing the office and co-ordinating our fantastic group of enthusiastic volunteers.

The Management Committee are pleased that our capital intensive building construction phase is almost complete with the recent opening of the Panjshir Valley Hope House and Takhar is on track for completion in September 2013.

Mahboba's Promise has evolved from a small operation operating out of a garage to a now significantly larger operation with a few paid staff.

Our growth has led us into a number of operational initiatives and improvements, such as the restructuring of our electronic filing system to be far more intuitive and tied to supporting our operational structure.

We have begun to update a number of significant planning documents including our Policies and Procedures, our Strategic Plan, and our Marketing and Communications Plan. We were fortunate to have the assistance of The University of Technology "Shop Front" who undertook a comprehensive Risk Management Plan. This was a valuable exercise and our thanks go to the Shop Front team for their input and advice.

We made a bid through AusAID for the Australian Afghan Community Resilience Scheme. A huge amount of effort was put into this submission by many people, particularly Management Committee member Martin O'Dea, and dedicated volunteer Debbie-Ann Case. We should hear the outcome of this submission in late 2013.

We have been steadily improving our systems in both Sydney and Kabul that will assist us with any longer term options of external accreditation by Australian and international Aid agencies.

We look forward to the 2013-2014 year where we will have our updated Strategic Plan and Communications and Marketing Strategies in place.

Thanks to all our supporters who have helped to make Mahboba's Promise the great success that it is.

Khurshida Ajam

Vice President
Mahbobas Promise Management Committee





ABOUT US

Mahboba's Promise Inc. raises funds in Australia for development projects in Afghanistan. Afghanistan remains one of the most challenging places in the world for women and children. The delivery of effective aid is hampered by the world's longest-running major armed conflict which over the last thirty years has devastated health, education, economic systems, and lives.

These factors have created a profound humanitarian crisis with many internally displaced persons. We focus on the plight of widows and orphaned children overwhelmed by poverty and work with them through a series of programs and initiatives to help them regain control over their lives and get education.

Funds are raised almost exclusively from the Australian public with some corporate support. We do not receive any government funding.

The organisation was founded by Mahboba Rawi, herself a refugee from Afghanistan and now an Australian citizen. In the late 1990's, Mahboba responded to calls for help from an Afghan doctor working in the refugee camps in Peshawar in Pakistan. Right from those early days education was the focus and schools were built and supported in the camps to educate Afghan refugees.

In 2001, the work shifted to Afghanistan where, in Kabul, displaced widows were on the street quite desperate for food and shelter. Mahboba's uncle used his house in Kabul as a centre and, with funds raised by Mahboba in Australia, he set about establishing an orphanage and a support network to help the widows and their children. The work grew from there and Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan was established as a registered Afghan NGO and is our implementing agency in Kabul. Through them we currently carry out development work in three provinces of Afghanistan: Kabul, Panjshir and Takhar. We work closely with individuals and local communities on a long

term basis. This way we are familiar with the stresses and pressures on the communities and have established good dialogue with local leaders.

Our programs aim to protect the human rights of those from vulnerable and marginalised groups by:

- Providing supplementary education for orphaned and disadvantaged children so that they can go to school with confidence and succeed in the classroom. Schooling in Afghanistan is rudimentary and if children are further disadvantaged, they will often drop out early; our intervention changes the outcome of their lives, helping break poverty cycles.
- Providing mentoring for children to encourage them to study and learn social and leadership skills.
- Lifting widows out of poverty by helping them find somewhere to live, access to medical care, assistance with problems, and education for their children.
- Encouraging widows to become self-sufficient through vocational training courses.
- Using the permaculture model farm we have developed in Kabul for training and to help feed our beneficiaries.

Mahboba's Promise Inc. is a non-government, non-profit, voluntary association.

Mahboba's Promise is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to its Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.



Milking at the Dairy Co-op



WHAT WE DO

VISION

Our Vision is to provide a sustainable future within a secure environment for the disadvantaged and vulnerable people of Afghanistan and in particular for women, children and orphans.

MISSION

Mahboba's Promise aims to provide effective sustainable overseas development aid to disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and communities in Afghanistan through the provision of education, sanitation, primary health care, training and agriculture programs.

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:

- build the morale of people affected by conflict so that they have motivation to reconstruct their country;
- restore faith in the future through the example of quality workers delivering aid services;
- consider and consult experts in relation to cultural practices and beliefs to identify and meet the best interests of the people we assist;
- establish self-sufficiency in individuals and sustainable outcomes in community projects in the programs that we provide;
- enhance the quality of life of our beneficiaries through education and training;
- consult and involve all stakeholders including beneficiaries and value their participation at all stages in our programs;

- respect and protect internationally recognized human rights including civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights;
- respect and protect the human rights of people from vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- include and address the rights of people with disabilities and their representatives;
- ensure the safety and best interests of all children through project design, monitoring and implementation of child protection policies;
- be equitable and non-discriminatory in the distribution of our aid;
- follow best practices and give due consideration to issues of sustainable ecological and resource management in our aid programs;
- encourage the use of renewable energy and appropriate technology;
- and promote good governance and civil society.

In our Governance, we will endeavour to be professional and accountable and compliant by:

- 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 disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and communities in Afghanistan;
- ensuring that the Association is at all times financially responsible;
- developing, implementing and reviewing the Policies and Procedures of the Association.



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



Happy to be at school • Photo: Amy Jean Harding



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

Mahboba's Promise believes in working with communities and implementing projects that will make a difference over the long-term. We have made a significant number of changes to our welfare based programmes to include development and training components over the last year. Here are some of the highlights from this year:

- Completion of infrastructure projects in Panjshir, including the construction of Hope House in Panjshir Valley sponsored by Dick Smith, as well as building works to improve facilities at the Abdara Girls School and Boys School, sponsored by Dubai Cares.
- Backyard Gardens for women, an exciting pilot project funded by the Australian Embassy in Kabul's, Direct Aid Program that delivers tools and resources to enable women to grow their own food in their own homes.
- New library facility of regional significance: providing books and learning opportunities for children and the general community in Panjshir, this facility was sponsored by Make a Mark Australia (MAMA).
- Womens Dairy Co-operative, providing training to local women and producing fresh food, such as fruit, vegetables, milk and yoghurt, that benefit the women workers, the children at Hope House and the general community with surplus products being sold in the local market.

We are looking forward to the year ahead when these new facilities will be put to good use. Our focus now is on consolidating the gains that have been made and using our facilities for skills training, especially for school children, as well as continuing our efforts to improve our internal management systems and increase our capacity as an organisation to be effective.



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

HOPE HOUSE PANJSHIR VALLEY

The Hope House centre in the Panjshir Valley has been generously funded by entrepreneur Mr Dick Smith. The construction of the building began in 2010 and the basic structure was completed in 2012. It has the capacity to house 100 orphans, both boys and girls, and is the only centre in the area that provides living space as well as access to an improved education. It is planned that in August 2013, the building will be able to open its doors to the community and the area's most vulnerable children can be moved into the centre to begin their new lives.

The educational component of the centre is crucial as it will help facilitate self sufficiency in the future for the beneficiaries. Designed to complement the half-day of schooling the beneficiaries already receive, each individual will be assessed and a plan which best suits their educational and developmental needs will be devised by the team at the centre. The education offered at the centre will include engaging the children in sport and recreational activities designed to boost their self esteem and confidence.





2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS





2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



Children using the new Make a Mark Australia sponsored Library at Hope House - Panjshir Valley



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



MAMA LIBRARY PANJSHIR VALLEY

The MAMA library is a component of Hope House Panjshir Valley. This was a project that was implemented by Mahboba's Promise and funded by Make a Mark Australia (MAMA). As was acknowledged when the idea for the Hope Houses was originally conceived, education is a crucial development enabler, and the need for improved resources and breaking down the barriers to education is acute in the Panjshir Valley.

The library is unique. Offering free access to the local community and with books available covering a huge array of subjects, including children's story books, subjects related to the school curriculum, psychology, Persian literature, English dictionaries and grammar, history, science, religion, culture, language, mathematics, and geography, the community appreciated the prospect of the library. Project Manager Omar Rawi stated that the selections of books on offer in the libraries were "the best books available ... for students, kids and people of every age and gender."

The library was opened in June 2013. A special opening day was held and local government representatives cut the opening ribbon to the centre.



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



Making yoghurt



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

DAIRY CO-OP

The Women's Dairy Cooperative project is a project funded by our donors Rosemary and Geoff Holt. Its basic aim is to train ten widows in animal husbandry and dairy production. Through this training, and the creation and supervision of a small Dairy Cooperative, Mahboba's Promise is encouraging and guiding women towards self-sufficiency.

By teaching the women how to make a variety of milk products, such as cheese and yoghurt, Mahboba's Promise is helping to diversify the diet of the local community. Nutrition continues to be a concern in Afghanistan, with a nationwide dependence on the staple food of bread failing to provide all of the nutrients required. Malnutrition is a fact of life in Afghanistan, and children under 5 are worryingly exposed. The nutrients that the community will gain through access to dairy products will greatly reduce the incidence of malnutrition in the area.

Once production reaches a subsistence level, any excess produce is used by the women to sell or trade in the local market, opening up the opportunity for the widows to make themselves and their families self sufficient.

By fostering a connection with the land and the animals around them, Mahboba's Promise is also improving the widow's confidence, and enabling them to see a brighter future for themselves and their families.

The women were taught a wide variety of skills, including; basic hygiene processes for dairy production, traditional organically inspired dairy production, animal husbandry, poultry farming and egg sorting as well as basic business management. In the start up phase, the cooperative includes approximately 10 cows, 300 chickens and buildings for animal shelter.

The women are able to engage in small scale entrepreneurship. Currently the women dairy cooperative project is producing, eggs, milk and yogurt and presenting to local market in accordance with the local market price. Dairy and eggs are delivered to the market 3 days per week. Individuals purchasing the products from the Women's Dairy Cooperative report high quality produce, along with an appreciation for the high level of hygiene standards employed at the cooperative.





2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



Abdara Girls School - Panjshir Valley • Photo: Amy Jean Harding

ABDARA GIRLS SCHOOLS

The two schools that Mahboba's Promise continues to support in Abdara this year underwent a series of improvements to improve the conditions in which the children were learning. For the boys school, this involved plastering and painting of the wall surrounding the perimeter of the school site, provision of 100 study chairs and desks and the provision of a water tank.

For the girls school, the improvements involved the installation of a roof made out of iron metal sheeting, installation of a solar panel, provision of 50 study chairs and desks and the provision of a water tank. The project was designed to significantly improve the conditions in which the students receive their education; since Mahboba's Promise identified that the students' education provision was suffering on account of their surroundings.

Factors of cold, damp and a lack of clean water and adequate security were compromising the educational experience that the beneficiaries were receiving. Through Dubai Cares funding and the implementation and completion of the project objectives it is anticipated that the educational environment will be wholly conducive to the delivery of a secure, comfortable and ultimately happy learning experience.



2012 - 2013 HIGHLIGHTS



Anisa tending her new garden



Some months later.

PERMACULTURE: BACKYARD GARDENS

Often when widows come to Mahboba's Promise asking for help they have no way of feeding themselves and their families. This year, with funding from the Direct Assistance Programme of the Australian Embassy in Kabul, Mahboba's Promise has given 10 widows the opportunity to learn how to grow their own vegetables, and then grow them in their back gardens, using established permaculture techniques.

Permaculture beds have been set up in the back yards of the beneficiaries, and they are able to grow a variety of crops in order to feed themselves and their families, as well as sell or trade these goods with their neighbours. Using the permaculture processes of water conservation, soil building and pest control, the widows have reported excellent results.

ANISA'S STORY

Anisa lives on a hill top with her 6 children. In 2011 she lost her husband due to a car accident leaving her the only supporter of the family. She started by opening a small shop in front of her house, managed by her youngest son. This was her only source of income until she found Mahboba's Promise. Undertaking our tailoring course allowed her to open a tailoring shop.

Anisa was subsequently one of the 10 widows involved in the backyard garden program managed by Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan. Anisa saw this as a golden opportunity and took great pride in establishing her new garden.

"Now I have chickens producing eggs, a worm farm, and a kitchen garden which has helped me to produce an income. Thank you very much for all the support provided by Mahboba's Promise and the Australian Embassy"



STORIES



MUJEEBULLAH

In 2008, Mahboba's Promise found Mujeebullah playing in a rubbish dump and eating from it. His mother died in 2007 and his father was disabled; both his legs were deformed and he could hardly walk. His father said that no orphanage would take him since he still had one parent alive. To earn a living Mujeebullah's father was selling plastic bags in the street and had no other option but to take his son with him.

This is how Mujeebullah came to Hope House. When he arrived he was skinny, unwell and could not speak. While at Hope House, he had the opportunity to play with children his own age and develop both mentally and physically.

Eventually his father established a shop in the downtown and can now assure his education. He decided to take Mujeebullah back and thanked Mahboba's Promise:

"Now I can take care of my son and I show appreciation to Mahboba's Promise for supporting him more than five years when no one else would."

SHAH BEGUM

"I am a 50-year-old widow with two sons and two daughters. One of my sons is at school and another works in the market. When I remember the hard times of three or four years ago, tears come to my eyes. I've done a lot to keep my children alive despite great hunger.

"I used to make bread and sell it on the roads; sometimes I'd work on the land for less money. When I could not find work, I would send my children to sleep by telling them they would have food by next day.

"My doctors advised me to stop working as I have rheumatism and heart disease; I was unable to send my eldest son to school because he had to work in the market to feed us. I then borrowed some money from my relatives and bought 20 hens to sell the eggs and help the family. Thirteen of these hens died due to an unknown sickness.

"Two years ago I found Mahboba's Promise, and they began helping me. I participated in a course and learned about hygiene. I didn't even know how to wash my hands properly. After learning about hygiene, I taught my children what I'd learned. This year I participated in a permaculture course and learned how to use natural things instead of chemicals. I also learned about how to look after animals. I now have 10 healthy hens and sell their eggs to support the family.

"I am so thankful to Mahboba's Promise. I have learnt a lot from them and they somehow understood me."



MAHBOBA'S PROMISE AFGHANISTAN

RELATIONSHIP WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Mahboba's Promise Inc (MPI), based in Australia, has been working to provide effective development aid with local communities in Afghanistan for the last 12 years with its principle implementation partner Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA). While the two organisations are separate entities, the founder of Mahboba's Promise believes the ethos should be that of one organisation working towards a common goal. An international collaboration agreement has been signed by both MPI and MPA which states "...The profits, proceeds or other income derived by MPI or MPA must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of MPI or MPA (as the case may be)...."

The current roles in the exclusive partnership between Mahboba's Promise Inc (MPI) and Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) are summarized as follows:

Afghanistan remains one of the most challenging places in the world for women and children. The delivery of effective aid is hampered by the world's longest-running major armed conflict which over the last thirty years has and devastated health, education, economic systems, and lives.

The anticipated withdrawal of international troops adds a new level of uncertainty, while also presenting the country and civil society the opportunity to become more independent and self sufficient.

Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) have an established permanent presence in Afghanistan, and employ approximately 50 local Afghan staff. MPA is a signatory to ACBAR (Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief). The Code of Conduct is a set of norms, principles and values that aims to enhance the conduct and reputation of NGOs.

Mahboba's Promise Inc (Sydney)	Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (Kabul)
Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund raising and fund distribution to MPA Overarching policy guidance General guidance and mentoring Monitoring of projects and finances Capacity building 	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service delivery Project implementation Needs assessments Capacity building Accountability and reporting
<p>MPI and MPA are separate entities. The partnership is based on mutual respect . This is a collaborative partnership where both organisations communicate and listen to the other and strive to build capacity wherever possible.</p>	



MPA Executive Director - Sidiq Rawi giving the address at the Panjshir Valley Hope House opening ceremony

During the year Mr Sidiq Rawi CEO MPA was extremely busy visiting and supervising “hands on” the construction work on multiple projects such as the MAMA library, completion of Hope Houses in Panjshir Valley and Takhar, as well as the Abdara school improvement project. The staff say he leaves home at 5am and returns at 11pm completely exhausted. Fortunately, once these projects are completed we do not envisage many similar construction activities in the coming year. The projects have attracted great interest from the local communities who are keen to access better services and opportunities for children’s education.

In December 2012 Mr Khalid Malikzada was appointed General Manager for Mahboba’s Promise Afghanistan to assist the CEO in managing the workload. He has studied business administration and English literature at university. Besides his education Mr. Malikzada has more than 6 years of successful professional career, in the field of Management, Finance, Accounting, Banking, Security, Human Resources, consultancy, research and Marketing with national and international organizations in Afghanistan.

Mr Malikzada has already made a significant contribution to improving the administrative systems in the Kabul office and communications with the Sydney office.

We continue our efforts at capacity building. The staff in Afghanistan have attended training in Project Management. The accountant in Kabul has been receiving mentoring from our treasurer. The Sydney office and our counterparts in Kabul worked closely on the submission for the Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme (AACRS) submission which was sponsored by Ausaid. This has been a very useful learning exercise in understanding the stringent requirements that have to be met in order to be eligible for large government grants.



Taekwondo training at Hope House Kabul • Photo: Sanaz Fotouhi



2012 - 2013 EVALUATION AND LEARNING



Permaculture farm

In recent years Mahboba's Promise has expanded into new areas of activity, including the establishment of a Permaculture Farm and the delivery of various types of training projects. This diversification into new areas has provided valuable information for the organization, and enabled constructive debate about the desirable levels of activity, scope of work, and diversity in project type that will work best for this organization.

Evaluation of individual projects and review of the entire spectrum of activities undertaken by the organisation has led to some new thinking about the need for greater levels

of strategic planning and closer attention to detail during all project phases. This includes the need for more extensive planning and assessment of the viability of projects prior to their commencement, more detailed record keeping during the execution of projects, and a more comprehensive and detailed approach to the Monitoring and Evaluation requirements for each project.

In October 2012 John McKenzie, an international aid and development advisor, visited the Mahboba's Promise project sites in Afghanistan and was able to review the projects first hand on the ground. John provided valuable



2012 - 2013 EVALUATION AND LEARNING

feedback about how to improve projects as well as suggestions about further options for developing the existing programs. This also provided a good example of how to effectively perform independent observation and evaluation, and the organization is committed to implementing further improvements to ensure independent and comprehensive monitoring for all projects. One constraint on the organization's capacity to provide this type of resource is our heavy reliance upon volunteers.

There is recognition within the organization that the recruitment of skilled volunteers who can bring expertise in specific areas will be necessary to take the organization forward. The management of the volunteer workforce brings particular challenges. There can be a high turn over of people working for the organization at various times and in various locations, and there is recognition of the importance of maintaining organizational memory through effective mechanisms, such as established and habitual communication channels and thorough record keeping, so that as volunteers come and go there is an effective transference of knowledge and experience.

Throughout May – August 2013 Mahboba's brother Omar Rawi also visited Afghanistan, and provided reporting and observations about the effectiveness of the work that Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) delivers on the ground. Omar interviewed staff and program beneficiaries, including the children in Hope House Kabul and widows receiving help from Mahboba's Promise. In his report he identified that Mahboba's Promise makes a significant positive impact on improving people's lives. He found that Mahboba's Promise had a very good reputation locally, and that it operated with very little wastage or unnecessary overhead expenses.

The findings of the evaluation performed on the Permaculture Farm have generated new discussion about the future directions for this long term project. The setting for this

project involves a population that is made up predominantly of agricultural workers and farmers and this project saw a large number of both direct and indirect beneficiaries, primarily widows and their families, local farmers trained in permaculture techniques and the orphans at Hope House who received skills training in permaculture. Beyond that, the farmers in the community benefited from the dissemination of knowledge and practices, and the community itself benefited from the increase in activity and the wider development approach that permaculture fosters.

Ten families were trained on site in permaculture this year and then established gardens in the communities surrounding Kabul. Further, two schools have been able to establish gardens on the school site. These results enable people to better secure their own incomes and subsequently live sustainable and self sufficient lives.

One project objective was to achieve independent sustainability within 5 years, and this is still a work in progress. It takes considerable time to establish a productive farm. The initial results are encouraging, however, as yet the farm is not fully self-sufficient. It is anticipated that self-sufficiency will be achieved in 2-3 years. The best way of maximizing the use of this demonstration and training facility continues to be reviewed and refined as the project development unfolds.



2012 - 2013 EVENTS



Winter at Hope House



2012 - 2013 EVENTS

AFGHAN PEACE SCHOLARSHIP FOR MUJIB ABID

In 2012 Mahboba's Promise initiated the "Afghan Peace Scholarship" in conjunction with The University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. It offers an Afghan student the opportunity to study for a Masters degree in Peace and Conflict Studies.

The successful candidate was 22 year old Mujib Abid from Kabul. Mujib is currently finishing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration at The American University of Afghanistan. He has excelled at his studies with regular commendations from the Dean and President of the University.

Mujib has worked throughout his studies at the University to support himself and his family, and for much of that time has worked as IT Manager for the Cooperation for Peace and Unity. This is the first NGO in Afghanistan dedicated to working for peace and promoting knowledge and awareness of social justice and human rights.

Mujib said he felt quite emotional when he heard that he had won the scholarship.

"I was informed that I have been awarded the scholarship on the October 15, 2012."

"I am honoured. This is amazing news! I am excited about the new opportunities that may lie ahead of me with this scholarship."

Mujib arrived in Sydney on 22nd of June on 2013 to take up his studies. Anita Sekely and Lynne Phillips have been very supportive and instrumental in helping Mujib to settle in to Australia.



AFGHANISTAN ON A PLATE BEN QUILTY

We were honoured to have official Australian War Memorial Artist and 2011 Archibald Prize winner Ben Quilty as the quest speaker for our inaugural "Afghanistan on a Plate" luncheon held at Afghan restaurant, Bamiyan, in Sydney's inner west.

The lunch, which was sold out, was a great success and raised much needed money for the widows and orphans in the care of Mahboba's Promise. Ben visited Afghanistan for three weeks in October 2011 as a guest of the Australian Defence Force. The outcome of this trip was a series of paintings that has since been shown in the exhibition "Ben Quilty: After Afghanistan".

Ben's insightful and entertaining talk described his experiences in Afghanistan. Ben confessed in his lunchtime address that he had many misconceptions about Afghanistan before visiting the war-torn country, only to discover how wrong he was. He found Afghanistan to be a beautiful place and expressed the view that many positive and important things were happening there, but he emphasised how essential it was to concentrate on taking care of the children.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

DONORS

We would like to thank all the people and organisations that have assisted Mahboba's Promise to continue its vital work.

Mahboba's Promise relies mainly on donations from the Australian community. We have had a strong response to our Qurban, End of Financial Year and Mother's Day appeals.

We would like to thank our regular donors who provide certainty for our funding through monthly sponsorships of widows and orphans. These regular payments greatly assist in planning and managing our operations in Afghanistan. Sponsorships help provide for individuals and community development. The many orphans we care for, that were once begging on the streets now have a safe environment to live and learn, with the opportunity to attend school and play sports. The widows who often have children to support and no regular income, along with help with basic foodstuffs, receive regular training on health and hygiene, as well as opportunities to learn new skills through vocational training such as handicrafts or permaculture. Health and Hygiene are improved through education and the provision of wells and latrines.

The following major donors listed in alphabetical order deserve special acknowledgement for their substantial contribution:

- Ajam Nominees
- Dick and Pip Smith
- Dubai Cares
- Omni Executive
- Red Rocket Foundation

There are enthusiastic local groups and individuals that organise events such as garage sales, choir concerts and pottery sales. It all adds up and helps to raise awareness. Worthy of particular mention are:

- Petrina Slaytor who donated all the proceeds of her Pottery Sales
- World Womens Progress Support Group (WWPSG) that Formed a Giving Circle to raise funds towards a bus for Hope House
- Anita Sekely and Lynne Phillips who raised funds with the 'Afghanistan on a Plate' lunch and gave generously of their time and energy to enable Mujib Abid to come to Australia as part of the Afghan Peace Scholarship.

VOLUNTEERS AND PRO-BONO SUPPORT

Volunteers make a significant contribution to our organization and help keep our costs down enabling more of your donations to go to Afghanistan where it is most needed. Over the year many people come and help as volunteers with office administration, fundraising, marketing and communications. They are too numerous to mention but we do have two unsung heroes Peter Burt and Richard Herlihy who we want to thank. They drive Mahboba to her many engagements and meetings all over Sydney.

This year we also were privileged to receive pro bono services from Allen's law firm and Hausmann communications.

We also want to thank Bio-Distributors, Biodynamic and Organic Wholesalers who once again have provided sponsorship for the annual report as well as general publicity.



GOVERNANCE

Mahboba's Promise Inc. is an Association incorporated in NSW in 2001. It is registered as A Registrable Body and has authority to fundraise in all states.

Mahboba's Promise governance is the responsibility of the members of its Management Committee who delegate the day-to-day administration of the Association to the Executive Officer.

There are seven members of the Management Committee, four office holders and three ordinary members. Current members of the Management Committee must be re-elected every two years. Members of the Management Committee are not remunerated and each person has provided their services on a voluntary basis with reimbursement for out of pocket expenses incurred in the discharge

of their duties as members of the Committee, Mahboba Rawi, founder and President of the Management Committee does receive remuneration from Mahboba's Promise for her role as fundraiser.

The Management Committee meet every 4-6 weeks throughout the year.

Mahboba's Promise has established controls designed to safeguard its assets and to ensure the integrity of its reporting. The organisation is committed to ensuring that all its activities are conducted legally, ethically and in accordance with high standards of integrity and adherence to the ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) Code of Conduct and the guidelines of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and all other relevant legislation.

GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

Name	Position	Occupation	Appointed / re-elected	Meetings attended
Mahboba Rawi	President	Mahboba's Promise	16/01/2012	5/5
Khurshida Ajam	Vice-President	Marketing Executive	16/01/2012	5/5
Kumar Sri-Pathma	Treasurer	Financial Controller	25/5/2013	2/2
Dawood Godard	Secretary	School teacher	15/04/2013	2/3
Martin O'Dea	Ordinary Member	Landscape Architect	16/01/2012	4/5
Sue Denham	Ordinary Member	Teacher, staff development	16/01/2012	5/5
Al Dawood	Ex Officio Member	MP Operations Manager	02/04/2013	3/3
Nill vacancy as of the 30th June 2013				

MEMBERS RETIRING IN 2012 -2013 FY

Name	Position	Occupation	Retired	Meetings
Nami Park	Treasurer	Financial Controller	16/04/2013	3/3
Tania Melikan	Secretary	Facilities Manager	31/12/2013	0/2
Gill Shaddick	Ex Officio Member	Executive officer	31/03/2013	2/2

SUB COMMITTEES AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

Sub-Committee	Chair
Compliance	Martin O'Dea
Child Protection	Mahboba Rawi
DGR Afghanistan Relief Fund	Kumar Sri-Pathma
Marketing & Communications	Khurshida Ajam



2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

An independent audit of Mahboba's Promise Inc financial accounts for the year 2012 2013 was conducted by:

Robert Mayberry
(Partner)
Nexia Court & Co
Chartered Accountants
Level 29,
Australia Square
264 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
+61 2 9251 4600

A full version of the report is contained in Volume 2.



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The Management Committee
Mahboba's Promise
Suite 4, 1 Avon Rd, North Ryde
Sydney, NSW 2113

17 December 2013

Dear Committee Members

Auditor's Independence Declaration under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

In accordance with section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Mahboba's Promise.

As lead audit partner for the audit of the financial statements of Mahboba's Promise for the financial year ended 30 June 2013, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (a) the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours sincerely



Robert Mayberry, FCA
Partner



Nexia Court & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Sydney Office
Level 16, 1 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box 1195, Australia Square NSW 1215
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2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, and the income statement, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the declaration.

Management Committees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Members of the Management Committee of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct Financial Standards, the *Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 1984*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Sydney Office

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2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED (CONTINUED)**

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (NSW) 2009.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated presents a true and fair view in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct Financial Standards, the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, the financial position of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated as at 30 June 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Nexia Court & Co.

**Robert Mayberry, FCA
Partner**

Sydney

Date: 17-12-2013



2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of Mahbobas's Promise Incorporated

SCOPE

We have audited the summarized Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct Summary Financial Report of Mahbobas's Promise Incorporated on pages 20 to 24 of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the information reported in the ACFID summarised financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed our audit opinion in our report to the members dated 17 December 2013. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

Nexia Court & Co
Chartered Accountants

Sydney

Dated:

17-12-2013

Robert Mayberry, FCA
Partner

Sydney Office

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2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

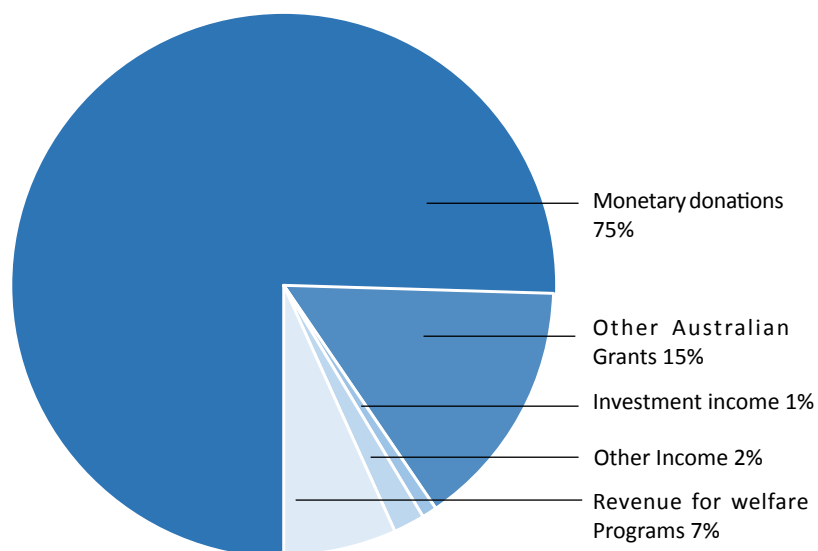
MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880		
ACFID FORMATTED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Statement of Financial Performance)	2013	2012
REVENUE	\$	\$
Donations & Gifts		
Monetary	784,096	847,444
Non Monetary	0	0
Bequests & Legacies	0	0
Grants		
AusAID	0	0
Other Australian	155,826	82,277
Other Overseas	0	0
Investment Income	9,324	15,442
Other Income	19,460	27,902
Revenue for Welfare Programs	70,186	35,605
TOTAL REVENUE	1,038,892	1,008,670
EXPENDITURE		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs - development	476,512	779,390
Program support costs	154,526	132,881
Community education	32,102	3,488
Fundraising costs		
Public	118,999	134,605
Government, multilateral and private	22,443	47,099
Accountability and Administration	65,213	44,042
Non-Monetary Expenditure	0	0
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	869,795	1,141,505
Expenditure for Welfare Programs	59,721	33,140
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	929,516	1,174,645
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	109,376	-165,975

Note: During the financial year, the agency had no transactions in the Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs category or in the Domestic Program category.

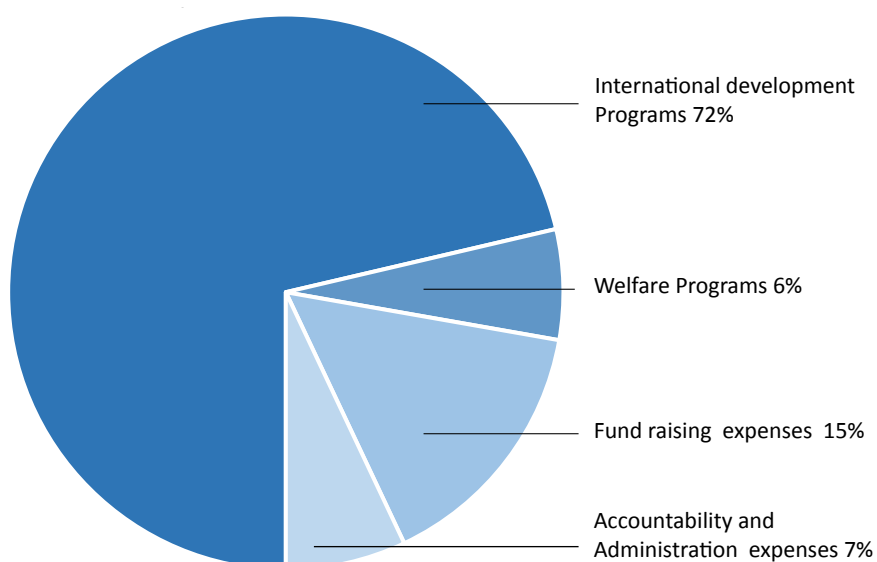


2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SOURCES OF INCOME



RATIO OF EXPENSES



"International development Programs" includes expenditure on our development work, along with community education, which includes staff time and outlays involved in providing community information and raising awareness as well as broader international development issues.

"Fund raising Expenses" are the costs associated with attracting more support through donations and sponsorships, and includes items such as advertising, mail-outs, costs of events and processing of donations.

"Accountability and administration" covers the administrative and other costs inherent in running an organisation, including rent, insurance premiums, legal and professional fees, office supplies and other running costs.

2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880		
ACFID FORMATTED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2013 (Statement of Financial Position)	2013	2012
ASSETS	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	573,649	449,951
Trade and other receivables	6,729	0
Inventories	0	0
Assets held for sale	0	0
Other financial assets	9,949	12,604
Total Current Assets	590,327	462,555
Non Current Assets		
Trade and other receivables	0	0
Other financial assets	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	1,377	10,779
Investment property	0	0
Intangibles	0	0
Other non-current assets	0	0
Total Non Current Assets	1,377	10,799
TOTAL ASSETS	591,704	473,334
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	8,905	4,473
Borrowings	0	0
Current tax liabilities	7,243	0
Other financial liabilities	0	0
Provisions	11,821	23,599
Other	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	27,969	28,072
Non Current Liabilities		
Borrowings	0	0
Other financial liabilities	0	0
Provisions	9,097	0
Other	0	0
Total Non Current Liabilities	9,097	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	37,066	28,072
NET ASSETS	554,638	445,262
EQUITY		
Reserves	0	0
Retained Earnings	554,638	445,262
TOTAL EQUITY	554,638	445,262



2012 - 2013 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880
ACFID FORMATTED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2012	445,262	0	0	445,262
Adjustments or changes in equity due to, for example, adoptions of new accounting standards items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess of revenue over expenses	109,376	0	0	109,376
Other amounts transferred (to) or from reserves	0	0	0	0
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2013	554,638	0	0	554,638

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880
ACFID FORMATTED TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available end of year
Designated Purpose or Appeal				
Dick Smith PV Education Centre	0	80,000	80,000	0
Dubai Cares	0	59,826	59,826	0
Total for Other Non-Designated Purposes	449,951	1,004,248	880,550	573,649
TOTAL	449,951	1,144,074	1,020,376	573,649

No single appeal, grant or other form of fund raising for a designated purpose generated 10% or more of the organisation's international aid and development revenue for the financial year.

Preparation of Financial Reports

The Summary Financial Reports contained in this Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au.

The full Financial Reports are contained in Volume 2 of our Annual Report

Volume 2 containing the full Financial Reports can be obtained by going to our website at www.mahbobaspromise.org or writing to Mahboba's Promise Inc., PO Box 6234, North Ryde NSW 2113, or emailing us at office@mahbobaspromise.org.



Dairy Co-op



Sponsors thank you

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors Bio-Distributors: Biodynamic & Organic wholesalers of Tasmania www.biodistributors.com.au for sponsoring our Annual Report. Bio-Distributors have done this for many years now and we feel this small acknowledgement with each Report does not do them justice. Thank you very much.



Pro Bono Support

ALLENS
hausmann communications

Allens < Linklaters

Mahboba's Promise Inc. Australia

PO Box 6234, North Ryde NSW 2113

Telephone: +612 9887 1665

Email: office@mahbobaspromise.org

web: www.mahbobaspromise.org

Contact: Mahboba Rawi

ABN 85 254 682 685

ABRN 135 823 880



Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Monetary donations of \$2 or more to Mahboba's Promise related to our development programmes can be directly claimed as tax deductions with the Australian Taxation Office.

Complaints

Mahboba's Promise has a process for handling any complaints about it. Please direct your complaint to the Operations Manager by calling the office on (02) 9887 1665 or by email to office@mahbobaspromise.org

ACFID code of conduct

Mahboba's Promise is a member of The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and adheres to the ACFID Code of Conduct which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. Complaints relating to a breach of the Code can be made to ACFID and information about how to make a complaint can be found at www.acfid.asn.au.



Afghan NGO Status

Our implementing partner in Afghanistan Mahboba's Promise NGO is an observer member of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)



Photo Credits

All Photos by Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan unless otherwise noted.



**MAHBOBA'S
PROMISE**
An Australian Aid Organisation



Issue H Final

Collecting the harvest from the Permaculture Garden