



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

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

## Volume 1

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Towards sustainability

# CONTENTS

*Children from Hope House  
visiting the Permaculture farm*

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON • DAME QUENTIN BRYCE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR &amp; PRESIDENT</b>	<b>4</b>
“TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY”	4
Mahboba Rawi	5
<b>REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>7</b>
Khurshida Ajam	7
<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>8</b>
VISION	9
MISSION	9
VALUES AND PRINCIPLES	9
GOALS OF OUR WORK	9
<b>2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>10</b>
BY THE NUMBERS	10
VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES	10
Confectionery factory	10
Mobile phone repair training	11
Tailoring training	11
<b>2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>	<b>12</b>
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES	13
Permaculture Farm	13
Vitamin Angels	13
Parwan Community Garden	13
<b>2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>14</b>
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES	15
Make a Mark Australia	15
Early Education Centre - Kabul	15
HOPE HOUSES	17
Kabul Hope House	17
Off-Away House Kabul	17
Takhar Hope House	17
Panjshir Hope House	17
ABDARA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL	18
<b>2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS</b>	<b>20</b>
AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS	21
Bibi's House (Australia)	21
<b>2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • VISITS</b>	<b>22</b>
MAHBOBA'S VISIT	22
MAHDI HOUSAINI	23
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY CONNECTION	24
<b>MAHBOBA'S PROMISE AFGHANISTAN</b>	<b>25</b>
RELATIONSHIP WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	25
Mahboba's Promise Inc. (MPI)	25
Sydney	25
Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) Kabul	25

<b>STORIES</b>	<b>26</b>
ARMIN*	26
One of our first children	26
SIMIN*	27
Disability no impediment	27
HASHIM*	27
A bright future from a Dark childhood	27
<b>STORIES</b>	<b>28</b>
SANAZ*	29
<b>STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS</b>	<b>30</b>
STAFF	30
VOLUNTEERS	30
DONORS	30
Volunteer story - Emma Jalien Hoftijzer	31
<b>STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS</b>	<b>31</b>
APPEALS	32
Qurban	32
Winter appeal	32
Narwoz	32
End of Financial Year Appeal	32
One Off Appeals	32
EVENTS	32
Canberra	32
Love Marriage in Kabul	33
Cultural gathering	33
Narwoz	33
Schools Promise	33
Support Group Events	33
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>34</b>
President	34
Vice President	34
SUB COMMITTEES AS AT 30 JUNE 2016	34
Treasurer	34
Secretary	34
Ordinary member	35
Ordinary member	35
Ordinary member	35
Ex Officio Office Manager	35
<b>2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW</b>	<b>36</b>
SOURCES OF INCOME	41
RATIO OF EXPENSES	41
Preparation of Financial Reports	43
Sponsors thank you	45
Pro Bono Support	45
Mahboba's Promise Inc. Australia	45
Deductible Gift Recipient Status	45
Complaints	45
ACFID code of conduct	45
Afghan NGO Status	45
Photo Credits	45





*Children at Hope House Early Childhood Centre*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON • DAME QUENTIN BRYCE



The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO

### MESSAGE FROM PATRON

I am proud to be Patron and have always enjoyed my engagement with Mahboba's Promise.

This inspiring organisation serves vulnerable women and children of Afghanistan. Many widows struggle to support their families and are in need of opportunities to acquire skills that will help them get jobs and generate an income. For thousands of children life there is much harder than we could imagine. Many orphans live on the street with no access to shelter, education and support.

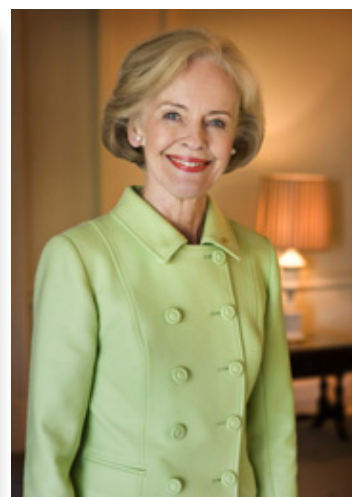
Mahboba's Promise continues to bring hope. Mahboba and her team have provided care for hundreds of children who have been able to finish school and begin study at university. They also provide support and vocational training for women in need.

With the refugee crisis drawing international focus to the plight of those in other countries, the responsibility for creating sustainable change in Afghanistan now lies with organisations working at the grass-roots level, like Mahboba's Promise.

I congratulate Mahboba's Promise on another year of achievement, dedication and hard work. I encourage you to contribute to the work of this wonderful organisation in any way you can.

11.11.16.

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**Dame Quentin Bryce AC CVO**  
25th Governor-General  
of the Commonwealth of Australia



## FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT



### “TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY”

I am proud that Mahboba's Promise continues to build on its development work. We have worked hard to cement positive changes in the communities in which we work. Above all, our work aims to generate hope in these communities so that Afghanistan has a bright future. We also want to show our beneficiaries – women and children – that they can help shape such a future. In my eyes, sustainability means that we can continue to run projects in Afghanistan over the long term. The sustainability of our Afghan projects has been a key focus for the organisation over the year. While the international community turns its attention to other humanitarian crises, Mahboba's Promise has to find creative ways to ensure our projects can sustain themselves. This is crucial given the uncertain development context of Afghanistan.

I'm very pleased to report that our confectionery factory in Kabul has been a successful step into social enterprise. The factory makes enough profit to cover its operations and those of other projects. It's a source of employment for the local community's widows and older orphans. They fill roles such as bakers, marketing assistants, book keepers and shop managers. The contract to supply the presidential palace with sweets was a huge achievement. This contract has provided the factory with a consistent source of work and revenue.

The early education centre in Kabul is another example of Mahboba's Promise's commitment to sustainability. Currently in Afghanistan early education is only available to wealthy families. This means children of low income families miss out on the benefits of the social, educational and mental development of early education. Currently the majority of students are fee paying. This allows us to set aside more spots for underprivileged children in the community. The fees also cover the salaries of the childcare workers at the centre. The continued growth in

enrolment numbers reflects the centre's success. To me, sustainability is more than the resources needed to cover ongoing costs. Our projects also need to generate sustainable benefits to the communities in which we work. These should last beyond any project time line and intervention by Mahboba's Promise.

We see this in areas such as the Panjshir Valley. Young women graduating from Abdara Girls School are now moving onto university. They are keen to study courses such as teaching, law and nursing. I can't begin to tell you how significant this is. These are some of the first girls in the region to complete high school and undertake further studies.

Girls education is key to sustainable change in Afghanistan. For each year of education, a girl's future income can increase by up to 20%. Educated girls will marry later and have smaller, healthier families. Educated women are twice as likely to send their children to school. They understand the value of education and the importance of passing it onto future generations of Afghans.

Mahboba's Promise aims to promote the rights of women and girls through education. We hope that this generates social changes that transcend the current generation. I believe our Abdara girls will be key to this change. I hope they will go on to be leaders and role models for future Afghans. 2016 has been a difficult year for me. I lost both of my Uncles. These were two men who have given me huge amounts of emotional and financial support over the years. I have also seen the worsening situation in Afghanistan during my two visits this year. I struggled to take in the extreme hardships everyday people continue to face. Conditions are deteriorating due to weak governance, increased violence and loss of international support. Too many young Afghans continue to leave the country in search of a better life. Many are risking their lives to reach Europe. There they become refugees, uncertain of where their future will lead.

Despite and indeed because of these tragedies, I remain committed to supporting those in Afghanistan who need our help the most.

In my heart I always pray for each individual who supports Mahboba's Promise. I pray for you, I pray for the world to be peaceful and I pray for Australia to be a safe place for our children in the future. I thank you all for enabling us to achieve what we have this year. I hope that you will be with us as we nurture the sustainable change in the communities we work in for many years to come.



**Mahboba Rawi**

President and Founding Director  
Mahboba's Promise Incorporated







## REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Growing the sustainability of Mahboba's Promise and its projects is an important task that the organisation has undertaken this year. We have done so to ensure we can continue the promise and empower the women and children of Afghanistan.

Enabling the self-sufficiency of the people we support is central to our work. Projects offering unique opportunities to these people are key to achieving this. We want them to develop distinct skills that set them apart from others in Afghanistan. This is why Mahboba's Promise provides a range of vocational training opportunities to the people we support. By identifying services that local communities need, the possibility of our beneficiaries finding sustainable income opportunities grows. Because of this, Mahboba's Promise has run training in mobile phone repairs, tailoring and confectionery making this year.

For our work to be sustainable, the organisation itself has also had to grow and develop in various ways over the year. We have taken stock of where we are and where we want to be. This means we have a better understanding of what we need to do to get there.

The collaboration and communication between our Sydney and Kabul offices strengthened over the year. Both offices have used the others' skills and knowledge to build a stronger development approach. Our Sydney office has also reviewed and developed the policies and processes related to our development work, making operations more efficient.

Additionally, we have made it a focus to explore new mediums for promoting Mahboba's Promise. This grows awareness of the work we do and the people we support. As a result, we have been able to inspire people from across Australia to become involved with Mahboba's Promise. This has seen every day people support our cause through film screenings, dinners and even volunteering in our office.

Mahboba's Promise will carry on this momentum as it moves beyond this year. It is an exciting time to be involved in the organisation and the possibilities it presents for growing our impact for the neediest in Afghanistan.



**Khurshida Ajam**

Vice President  
Mahboba's Promise Incorporated



Mahboba's Promise Incorporated raises funds in Australia for sustainable development projects for women and children that are managed and implemented in Afghanistan. It is a non government, non-profit, organisation and a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), signatory to its Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

Afghanistan remains one of the most challenging places for both women and children. The economy and society are still fragile after 33 years of war. Afghanistan is highly dependent on civil society and foreign aid.

Mahboba's Promise remains determined and committed to creating a better life for the disadvantaged and vulnerable in Afghanistan, especially the women and children. We focus on the plight of widows and orphaned children overwhelmed by poverty and we work with them through a series of programs and initiatives to help them regain control over their lives and get an education.

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.

## ABOUT US

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.

Our funds are raised almost exclusively from the Australian public.



## 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.

### GOALS OF OUR WORK

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 recognised 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.

## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 4** Provinces, where Mahboba's Promise operates: Kabul, Panjshir, Takar and now Parwan.
- 450** Kilograms of sweets, breads, biscuits and pastries produced weekly by the Confectionery factory for the Presidential Palace.
- 62** Children now attend the Kabul Early Education Centre.
- 17** Young men graduated from our mobile repair training programme.
- 50** Widows graduated from our tailoring course.
- 16** Older orphans and 14 widows graduated from our confectionery training course.
- 200** New peach trees planted at the Parwan garden.

#### Estimated Permaculture Farm produce

- 2300 kg Tomato
- 300 kg of Beans
- 1050 kg Okra
- 350 kg Garlic
- 380 kg Onion
- 200 kg Eggplant

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Mahboba's Promise Incorporated has maintained its strong development presence within Afghanistan for the 2015-2016 financial year and has experienced positive progress in key projects. The year was a turning point for cementing the organisation's commitment to strong organisational operations leading to sustainable development work with long term positive impact for beneficiaries. Education, whether it is formal schooling, vocational training or early childhood development, has been a key focus for the organisation to achieve sustainable development change.

#### Confectionery factory

The Mahboba's Promise Confectionery and Pastry factory established in 2014 is based in Kabul. It produces all kinds of traditional Afghan sweets. A significant achievement this year was that we were awarded a one-year business contract to supply the Presidential Palace in Kabul with confectionery, baked goods and other sweets.

This was a substantial order that required the factory to deliver 450-500kgs of products to the palace every week. The confectionery factory is Mahboba's Promise Incorporated's move towards social enterprise, with the factory operating self-sufficiently.

The factory was used for vocational training for 30 widows and older orphans from Kabul for six months of this year. Training covered not only confectionery production and decoration, but also involved business management, accounting and marketing training. Training graduates now work as sales representatives, shop owners and marketing assistants within the factory network. The aim is to expand the production and sales of confectionery.



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS - VOCATIONAL TRAINING

### Mobile phone repair training

Another initiative this year has been a mobile phone repair training programme. Seventeen boys aged 16-18 from our different Hope Houses participated in mobile repair training at Kabul Hope House over six months of this year. They now have a sound understanding of the skills required to fix batteries, speakers and chargers.

At completion of the training the participants were given their own mobile repair kit to allow them to set up their own mobile repair operations. With many of the participants travelling from other provinces to participate in the training, they have now been able to go back to their home communities to start working to support their families.

The graduates have taken different approaches to using their skills for employment. Some have set up a small stall outside phone shops in the community which allows them to help customers independently. Others are working in partnership with phone shops to fix customers' handsets.

The trainer of the mobile repairing course is a young man named Sadam. He has been working in mobile repairs for four and half years and has many students in Kabul city who have gone on to establish their own repairing shops. Sadam is handicapped and cannot walk; he uses crutches when coming to and from the course. Sadam said when he was 6 months old, the doctors operated on his back and as a result, he was unable to ever walk. He is a powerful role model for the boys because of his strong motivation to make use of his skills despite his disability.

### Tailoring training

Mahboba's Promise continued its tailoring training over the year with 50 widows completing six months of training from July-December 2015. Not only was the training beneficial in regards to learning vocational skills that can be leveraged to generate an income, the participating women also developed a tight support network and helped each other work through any personal problems they were having during their weekly classes.



The shift in confidence observed within the participants has challenged conservative voices in the widows' communities who do not value women learning.

Mazari, our tailoring course teacher, was one of the orphan girls supported by Mahboba's Promise growing up. She participated in earlier tailoring training courses during her time at Hope House and demonstrated an obvious talent for tailoring. She continued to develop her knowledge and skills and now teaches our tailoring classes in Kabul. Mazari enjoys sharing her knowledge with the widows she teaches and seeing them grow in confidence and ability as they progress through the training course.

We are now looking to move away from basic training to find long term income generating opportunities for our graduated widows through work contracts with clothing suppliers.

## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH



*Permaculture farm caretaker - Mr Gullabuddin*



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

#### Permaculture Farm

The Mahboba's Promise Permaculture Farm has been running for a number of years now. It is designed to become a self-sustaining farm and training centre where disenfranchised Afghans can come together to relearn lost traditions surrounding cultivation and develop new techniques which are environmentally sustainable.

The permaculture farm continues to produce fresh vegetables for the children attending lessons at Hope House and the early education centre as well as our vocational trainees. Currently the farm is growing cucumber, garlic, green beans, tomato, okra, onion and eggplant. Produce is used at the confectionery factory and also sold at local markets.

Mr Gullabuddin continues as caretaker of the site and was instrumental in preparing the soil over the winter months to ensure the site is ready for the spring and summer growing seasons.

The installation of a new well on site has been a welcome addition to the permaculture farm. The well was funded by The Universal Charity Fund (UCF).

Previously, Mahboba's Promise has relied on the use of a well on another property to cover the irrigation needs for the site. However the owner placed strict regulations on the amount of water used by Mahboba's Promise. This new well means Mahboba's Promise can take care of our own water security needs. Combined with our Solar powered pumps, this provides the site with the amount of irrigation needed to see the plants flourish.

#### Vitamin Angels

This year Mahboba's Promise received a donation from Vitamin Angels for multivitamins, vitamin A supplement and de-worming tablets for over 7000 beneficiaries in Afghanistan, reached with the assistance of field partners across different provinces.

#### Parwan Community Garden

Mahboba's Promise Incorporated has expanded operations into a new province this year with the opening of a community garden and greenhouse in Parwan province. Parwan lies in between the provinces of Kabul and Panjshir. It remains largely underdeveloped with a majority rural population. The garden and greenhouse is a sustainable venture that offers learning and social networking opportunities for 60 widows in the local area. It also provides the opportunity to grow nutritious fruit and vegetables for the widows' families.

The garden itself has over 200 fruit trees and vegetable patches planted. The greenhouse is producing radishes, cucumber and garlic. The community is heavily involved in the garden and remain fully committed to maintaining and caring for it as Mahboba's Promise hands over operations to a caretaker from the community.



*Parwan Community Garden and green house*

## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



*Children attending the Early Childhood education programme - Kabul*



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

#### Make a Mark Australia

##### Early Education Centre - Kabul

Following its successful opening last financial year our Early Education centre has been making a significant difference to the lives of local children.

Early childhood education is almost non-existent in Afghanistan, with access open only to wealthy Afghans in urban areas. Early childhood education is beneficial to children. It can help increase children's confidence, social skills and mental development. It also makes it easier for children to integrate into formal schooling.

There is a clear need for greater access to early education for low income families to promote the development of all children. The opening of the Kabul Early Education Centre last financial year has seen a rapid growth in enrolment rates. The project has proven so popular with the local Kabul community that more teaching staff have been hired to accommodate demand. The centre is open to children up to seven years of age. Children are placed in class groups depending on their age and learning development.

The children attending the centre participate in a range of classes including Persian, numeracy and English. Children also engage in morning exercise, volleyball and other physical activity. Creative art activities such as painting, poetry, storytelling and theatre are also offered to children as well. The centre provides life skill classes that encourage the social development of the children. These include sessions on personal hygiene, social relations and self-esteem.

The project commenced in 2015 with 26 children attending, of which six were non-fee paying. As of the end of the 2015-2016 financial year, the centre has 62 children attending, of which 50 are now fee paying. With fee-paying students subsidising the tuition costs for disadvantaged families, access to early education in the local area has been greatly expanded. The Centre allows more children to receive the social, educational and mental development offered by early education that eases the transition into formal schooling. The progress of this project has been so positive that Mahboba's Promise has commenced work to open another centre at Panjshir Hope House in the next financial year.





## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



*Boys from Hope House Takar*

## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### HOPE HOUSES

Our three Hope Houses continued to support vulnerable children in Kabul, Panjshir and Takhar this year. The Hope House concept aims to provide disadvantaged Afghan children with the opportunity to reach their full potential through education and training during the day and permanent, secure housing during the night.

The conflicts in Afghanistan have undermined the ability for many Afghan children to live a normal and healthy life, due to extreme poverty, instability and homelessness. Our Hope Houses were established to offer vulnerable children a brighter future by providing them with a safe and secure home environment, ending the need for children to beg and work to find money for food. Instead, children can access the educational resources needed to develop mentally and physically into strong, confident youth who can contribute to rebuilding Afghan society.

#### Kabul Hope House

Kabul Hope House currently has 34 children boarding there, along with the 62 additional children attending the early education centre during the day.

Hope House Kabul is being used by the Afghanistan Directorate of Orphanages as an example for other centres to follow because of its high performance and reputation. The centre staff continue to work closely with Afghan Ministry officials to continuously improve operations and maintain the high expectations people have for the centre.

The Hope House received a new green play area for the children, replacing the old cement covered area. The green space is safer and more appealing so the children are making good use of the new sport equipment donated by the Australian embassy.

Currently we have two girls and four boys who attended Hope House now studying at university. They have successfully completed their first year of study.

#### Off-Away House Kabul

What was referred to as “Halfway House” in our last annual report has changed its name of “Off Away House”. Currently we have 12 young men living in Off-Away House, which is located in a building next to Kabul Hope House. These young men are either studying or are looking for employment. Mahboba’s Promise supplies them with accommodation to ease their transition into Kabul society and in return these young men work as Mahboba’s Promise volunteers, assisting our Afghanistan office in a variety of areas.

#### Takhar Hope House

The Takhar Hope House children received a welcome donation of tracksuits from Waverley College in Sydney which kept them warm over the winter months this year. The centre staff and children also planted a number of fruit trees during early spring. In the coming years when they start to bear fruit, this will enable the children to have access to fresh produce. This will be a welcome development as Takhar is a remote province, isolated from much of the rest of the country. As such, it is difficult to access markets and other places that sell everyday goods so the new fruit trees will fill a high demand for Takhar Hope House.

#### Panjshir Hope House

Many of the Panjshir Hope House children have been able to return to extended family over weekends this year whilst completing their schooling during the weekdays at Hope House. Panjshir Hope House is the proposed site of our next Early Education Centre funded by Make a Mark Australia. This project was commenced in May 2016 and will be fully operational in the 2016-2017 financial year.





### ABDARA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Mahboba's Promise remains committed to promoting universal participation in a full course of schooling. Abdara Girls School plays an important part in pursuing this goal. Eight senior girls sat the high school graduation exam this year and each already know what university courses they want to take.

Mahboba's Promise recognises that it is not enough to educate girls. There also needs to be continuous dialogue with the local community to address the social and cultural barriers to allowing

girls to complete their primary and secondary education and pursue tertiary studies. During her visit this year, Mahboba met with younger boys in the Abdara community who are responsible for their sisters. This was in order to understand their concerns about allowing their sisters the opportunity to study at university. Mahboba's Promise also works closely with the head of the local village who is an activist for girl's education, in order to generate grass roots support for the girls seeking further studies.



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



A new sponsorship program was launched this year to support young girls in the Abdara area attend school. Often families in Panjshir have limited funds available to cover all household needs. Therefore, they need to make difficult decisions on which children are sent to school and which will stay home and help around the house. Girls can often miss out on receiving an education because of this so our new sponsorship program aims to make it easier for families to send their girls to school. 28 girls between the ages of 6-12 are currently being sponsored, with the funds used to help cover school fees, as well as transport, stationery and uniform costs for the girls each year they are at school.

The renovation of the Abdara Girls School hall was completed in November 2015. This fixed structural damage to the building caused by heavy snow falls, subsequent water damage and general neglect. The new building provides a brighter, sturdier, weather proof structure to the school community. The reconstruction of the hall involved fresh plaster, insulation panels, windows and paint. During the construction stage, Mahboba's Promise also contributed additional funds to build a library next to the hall. Students can now borrow books and educational resources to improve their studies.



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS



*Some of the Hope House Early Education Centre children*



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS

### AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS

#### Bibi's House (Australia)

After more than 15 years of supporting communities in Afghanistan, Mahboba's Promise has expanded its development work to also assist vulnerable and disadvantaged groups within Australia.

Mahboba remains concerned about the lack of support and services available to migrants and refugees, in particular those from the Afghan and Muslim communities, to ease their integration into Australian society. She is especially worried about the tragic loss of young people to negative ideology that pushes them to make bad decisions on the basis that they feel they do not belong in their Australian community. Mahboba is passionate about channelling her efforts into this cause through the Bibi's House program in Australia.

The concept of Bibi's House was created to support newly arrived Afghan families as they navigate their way through their new country and its social, political and legal systems. Though not a physical space, Bibi's House aims to increase positive interactions and participation of the Afghan community, families and individuals with the broader Australian community by building up their skills so that they engage and actively participate and contribute to developing the changing nature of the Australian way of life. Multicultural NSW provided funding to run a pilot Bibi's House program for Afghan women which involved educational workshops and social outings for the participants. Bibi's House also received funding from the Scanlon Foundation for a program that worked with Afghan families to promote positive connections and involvement with their local community



Hope House Early Education Centre boy with donated Narvoz gift

## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • VISITS



### MAHBoba'S VISIT

Mahboba travelled to Afghanistan during the 2015/16 winter from December to February. This was her first time experiencing the harsh Afghan winter. Mahboba found comfort knowing that those supported by Mahboba's Promise have been able to improve their living standards. Yet she saw firsthand how many more people needed such opportunities.

The visit was a chance to review the project outcomes achieved during the year with Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan PA staff. It was also an opportunity to visit key project sites and talk with the women and children there.

On her visit to Panjshir Valley, Mahboba visited Abdara Girls School. The students came out to meet with Mahboba, despite the school being closed for winter break. From these meetings, Mahboba became aware that the school principal

had not been allowing girls to borrow books over winter. Mahboba resolved this with the principal and set up a reading competition over the break for students.

Throughout her trip, Mahboba met with participants in the various vocational training programs. She found the level of knowledge trainees had developed during their course impressive. The women and youth participating in these courses had no previous vocational skill sets. They can now fix phones, sew clothing or produce pastries. Even more inspiring are the support groups the trainees formed during the courses.

During her visit, Mahboba also worked with the confectionery factory staff to complete the application for supplying the Presidential Palace with baked goods. Mahboba's Promise was successful in winning this contract.



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS • VISITS

### MAHDI HOUSAINI

Mahdi Housaini is a regular volunteer at the Mabboba's Promise offices in Sydney. Mahdi is a university student and a key member of the Mabboba's Promise Youth Committee.

*"It's been more than a year since I've come back from my trip to Afghanistan. When being driven along its rugged green valleys or looking up at the night sky white with stars, I felt it in my bones that soon I would come back. With fear I thought that perhaps this conviction would erode as time went. But it only got stronger.*

*I spent most of my time in Afghanistan with Mabboba and her son who is my close friend, Sorosh. Sorosh and I travelled where the security situation allowed. We went to the ancient province of Bamiyan and found the world-famous band-e-amir lake and waterfalls in the middle of utter desert. It reminded me of the possibility of hope and promise, even in the most tragic of circumstances. We spent a few nights in Panjshir valley where at night a serene and absolute silence could be felt. This was disturbed only by the Panjshir river roaring, the wolves howling in the distance and the wind stirring the trees restless.*

*The beauty of Afghanistan wasn't all scenery. Personally, I was more affected by the exquisite kindness and hospitality of everyday Afghans. There was a sincerity in the way they treated us, everywhere we went. Total strangers opened their homes to us and gave us refuge. The Afghan spirit was very much alive. Decades of war and bloodshed couldn't erode it. Throughout our trip, above all else we witnessed the raw endurance of the human soul.*

*However, Afghanistan still bleeds and my heart often broke there. The kids at the Hope Houses were all very joyous, but they saddened me often. I was amazed by how quickly they became attached to Sorosh and I. They did so because they thrive on affection. Orphans in Afghanistan may be desperate for food, shelter or clothing, but more than all that they need love and*

*support. At the Hope Houses they are truly loved and are given the opportunity to thrive. But there are so many orphans forsaken and alone beyond the colourful walls of the Hope Houses. It is these orphans that still need to be found and taken care of. This is why Mabboba's Promise matters so much.*

*I saw many of the endeavours of Mabboba's Promise in Afghanistan. As a result my respect for the organisation has grown more. Everywhere there were footprints of Mabboba's Promise. In the outskirts of Kabul the rich soil of the permaculture farm sprouted fresh fruits for the Hope Houses.*

*In Panjshir I saw Abdara Girls School standing proudly where no girl had known education before. I saw the remote and nameless corners to which Mabboba's Promise sends supplies to, making life easier for struggling families. The brave efforts of the organisation offer those it supports the potential to hope.*

*So more than a year later, it seems that I cannot forget Afghanistan. Memories of its beauty and suffering will not leave my mind.*

*I'm eagerly waiting my return."*

Mahdi Housaini



## 2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

### AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY CONNECTION

The relationship between Mahboba's Promise and the Australian embassy in Kabul continues to grow. The Ambassador was kind enough to present the graduation certificates to our confectionery and tailoring trainees at a special Australia Day event this year. At the event Mahboba also presented the Ambassador with a Bravery Award for the work and support himself and his team provide to Afghanistan.

The Hope House children are invited to the Australian Embassy regularly for visits organised by the embassy's social club. The visits involve games such as football, volleyball and cricket with the embassy and defence force staff and finish up with everyone sharing a barbecue lunch together. The social club has also been generous enough to donate bicycles, sporting equipment and toys to Hope House throughout the year.



# 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 13 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 summarised in the table below:

The 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) has an established permanent presence in Afghanistan, and employs approximately 50 local Afghan staff. MPA is a signatory to ACBAR (Agency Coordinating 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 Non Government Organisations.

Mahboba's Promise Inc. (MPI) Sydney	Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) Kabul
Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fund raising and fund distribution to MPA</li><li>Overarching policy guidance</li><li>General guidance and mentoring</li><li>Monitoring of projects and finances</li><li>Capacity building</li></ul>	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Service delivery</li><li>Project implementation</li><li>Needs assessments</li><li>Capacity building</li><li>Accountability and reporting</li></ul>
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.	



## STORIES

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### ARMIN\*

#### One of our first children

Armin was one of the first children Mahboba helped when she first began collecting money for the children in the Pakistani refugee camps. Armin was sent to Pakistan by his mother to live in one of the camps with other young boys because it was a safer than remaining in Afghanistan. Mahboba's early fundraising efforts helped Armin and the other boys survive the harsh winters of Pakistan. When Kabul Hope House opened, Armin moved there and gained his education whilst learning English and French from international visitors. Eventually he became a teacher at Hope House to support the next generation of children to make the most of their lives.

Armin now works as a procurement officer at our confectionery factory. He is responsible for buying all the ingredients, packaging, equipment and other factory needs. He monitors what was purchased, how long it lasts and how market costs are changing. He always does his investigation before purchasing to review the quality the products he is buying. Armin also knows how to haggle with sellers to make sure he gets the best price in the market for his purchases.

Armin is also studying pharmacy at university and is due to complete his course early next year. He volunteers at a local pharmacy after work to gain practical experience for his degree. Armin often runs educational talks at Hope House on health and hygiene for local families with the knowledge he has gained from university.

The best thing in Armin's life is his young daughter Boshra. Armin said, "Boshra is my world. She is always waiting at the door for me when I come home from my work to say hello Pardar." The opportunities he has come across through Mahboba's Promise will allow him to build a bright future for his young family.



## STORIES

### SIMIN\*

#### Disability no impediment

After tasting a home cooked cake made by Simin, her mother was amazed at the skills Simin has developed during her confectionery training. “We hope she will continue to cook cakes in the future so we can take them to the market.” Simin is one of Mahboba’s Promise beneficiaries who have a disability - she cannot speak or hear. This has not deterred Simin from attending confectionery training, where she has excelled at cake decoration and design. She has learned confectionery production by watching, bringing her sister who has interpreted the training to her by using sign language. She is now responsible for decorating the birthday and wedding cakes ordered by customers at the factory and has been developing her own unique designs to decorate the cakes with.

### HASHIM\*

#### A bright future from a Dark childhood

Hashim’s father and three brothers were killed by his uncle over a land dispute when he was very young. Hashim and his mother continued to suffer abuse at the hand of his uncle until they could move away to Kabul. Here they came to the attention of Mahboba’s Promise.

Hashim’s mother began to receive support through the Mahboba’s Promise outreach program. She struggled to find work because she is disabled and needs a walking stick to move freely around so the support from Mahboba’s Promise eased their transition into Kabul life.

Hashim was enrolled in the Kabul Hope House school in 2007 at the age of 7. The trauma he had experienced in his past meant he struggled to focus in class. This caused him to drop down two years at school. His teachers persevered with him and his lessons and made sure he continued to progress, even if it was at a slower rate than other children his age.

Now Hashim is an energetic young man living in Off-way House. He is also one of the participants in the Mahboba’s Promise confectionery training

program. Throughout training he demonstrated a natural ability in pastry making. At the completion of his training program, Hashim wanted to continue learning and began an internship at the factory. He received on the job training in the production techniques of a range of pastries and other confectionery products. Hashim continued to gain practical work experience whilst continuing his school studies. When the position of production trainer became vacant at the factory, Hashim took on the role. He now works as a pastry chef and trainer in the factory and is able to provide support to his disabled mother.

Hashim works at the confectionery factory from 07:00am to 12:30pm each day. He collects the orders for the day and oversees the production of these. Once the orders are ready for distribution, he leaves the factory for school where he participates in afternoon lessons from 1:00-4:00pm.

His great ambition is to finish his schooling and go on to university as it is something he didn’t think he would ever be able to do. He is also very interested in the field of pastry making. He wishes to become a successful pastry chef so he can make sure his mother lives a comfortable life.

*\* Names have been changed.*



*Hashim holding a tray of sweets at the confectionary factory*

## STORIES

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*Pre school children at the MAMA funded Early Childhood Centre • Hope House • Kabul*



## STORIES

### SANAZ\*

“In 2002, I lost my father. I was very young but my mother worked hard to ensure my siblings and I could go to school. In 2006, I became aware of Mahboba’s Promise. My mother was being supported through their outreach program, easing the burden of supporting a family by herself. I was able to complete my schooling as well as English and Computer courses with the help of Mahboba’s Promise.

With the education I had, I was able to work for Mahboba’s Promise as an assistant in their dental clinic at Kabul Hope House. The day I was offered the role I was so surprised and excited! It was incredible to be a part of the organization that had helped my family so much. It felt really good to be able to help other children and families who were going through similar hardships to what I had.

After six months working in Hope House Medical Centre, I was promoted to work in the Hope House Kindergarten. I later worked as a receptionist for Mahboba’s Promise before finally being offered the role of Treasurer for the Afghanistan branch of the organization. I continue to work at Mahboba’s Promise today.

Beside the employment opportunities I have been offered at Mahboba’s Promise, I am most grateful for the organisation’s encouragement for me to pursue higher education. This culminated in me completing my thesis and graduating from Tabesh Higher Education Institute with a post graduate degree in Economics at the start of 2016. I received the honour of top student for the year.

It is inspiring to see that the hard work Mahboba’s Promise has put in to developing the skills and education of Afghan children is now bearing its fruits. Because of the support of Mahboba’s Promise, I can now make lead a good life, look after my family and support my country”

Sidiq Rawi, CEO of Mahboba’s Promise Afghanistan says, “I knew Sanaz was a talented girl from a young age. That is why we wanted to invest in her. By helping with her schooling and university fees, Sanaz has grown into a smart, hard-working young woman who is a huge asset to Mahboba’s Promise.”



*Sanaz in the Mahbobas Promise Afghanistan office*

*\* Names have been changed.*



## STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

### STAFF

A small, dedicated group of staff in our Sydney office work to ensure Mahboba's Promise Incorporated continues to operate effectively. The small number of staff means that our team members share the responsibilities of keeping Mahboba's Promise running smoothly amongst each other.

A range of areas are covered by our office staff, including but not limited to:

- Administration
- Human resources / volunteer management
- Program management
- Policy development and compliance
- Accounting
- Marketing / communications
- Fundraising
- Event management

Carla Jolly along with the support of Karmen Petrovic, who left us at the end of the financial year, shared administration, human resources and office management tasks. Nazreen Richmond worked on accounts. Andrew Wilcox managed marketing, communications, fundraising and events. In December 2015, Alex Bellamy also joined the team with the responsibility of overseeing projects and policy development. All our staff work beyond their official contracts to volunteer their time for Mahboba's Promise

Mahboba's Promise's Operations Manager, Al Dawood left his role in August 2015 but remains an active supporter of the organisation and its work.

### VOLUNTEERS

Mahboba's Promise Incorporated would not be able to do the work we do without the support of dedicated volunteers. Our Sydney office has taken on a number of skilled volunteers throughout the year who offer a valuable and varied range of skill sets integral to continuing the organisation's operations. These skills range

from marketing and IT to donor relations and sponsorship management.

Outside of the office, we have volunteers manning fundraising stalls, assisting with running events and supporting Mahboba Rawi in her professional engagements.

Of particular note are the following volunteers, who have all given extensive time to the organisation this year.

- Azadeh Behruzikhah
- Peter Burt
- Francis Gallassi
- Mahdi Hosaini
- Apurba Mukherjee
- Geoffrey Scott
- Toulia Serna
- Emma Jalien Hoftijzer
- Shirin Dawood
- Palwasha Anwary
- Lubna Uppal
- Joshua Lamvohee

### DONORS

Our work in Afghanistan would not be possible without the generous donors who have supported us over the year. With so much hardship facing so many people across the world today, we are truly grateful that people continue to remember the people of Afghanistan.

Regardless of the amount donated, all of our donors are special people who have made a choice to give their trust to Mahboba's Promise.

The following major donors listed in alphabetical order deserve special mention for their outstanding contribution:

- Dick & Pip Smith
- Dr Nicole Wong Doo
- Make a Mark Australia
- Rick & Jo Easton
- Scanlon Foundation
- Universal Charity Fund (UCF)

## STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

### Volunteer story - Emma Jalien Hoftijzer

Emma spent 6 months as an intern at the Mahboba's Promise offices in Sydney this year. She is a university student from the Netherlands, studying a Masters of Social Work. The internship allowed her to gain practical experience in the not-for-profit sector.

As a projects assistant Emma worked with a small team at the Mahboba's Promise office to research grant opportunities, draft project designs, create event plans and volunteer at events.

*"By the end of my internship, I really didn't want to leave. I felt like I had become so involved with the projects here in such a short amount of time." She says.*

*"Looking back, I can say that coming to Australia to do my internship was the best decision, I absolutely do not regret it. The people who are working at the office are such nice people and they really care about the people they are working to help. Mahboba's Promise gave me the opportunity to grow and to improve myself and I am so thankful for that."*



Girl from Abdara Girls School



## APPEALS AND EVENTS

### APPEALS

The financial year started with our annual Ramadan campaign. Working under the theme of ‘Humanity starts with you’, this year’s call out was in response to Founder Mahboba Rawi’s shock reaction on a visit to Afghanistan where she saw that conditions there were as bad as they had been with the Taliban in 2002. Through general donations, sponsorships and specific Ramadan payments directed toward supporters from the Muslim community, Mahboba’s Promise was able to channel funds to satisfy the immediate needs of the neediest in the areas in which we operate.

#### Qurban

Qurban in 2015 focused on the Eid al-Adha celebration on September 24, and the appeal started around one month beforehand. This year was very successful with nearly 200 Qurban requests. Mahboba’s Promise was able to make its first distribution in the isolated and deprived Parwan province. This was in addition to the regular distribution made in the communities surrounding our Hope House centres in Kabul, Panjshir Valley and Takhar. Some of the recipients had not had the opportunity to eat meat in two years.

#### Winter appeal

The Winter appeal is held yearly to provide for the neediest in Afghanistan during the cold months of the northern Winter. This year a couple of packages were on offer: a ‘warming package’ which included charcoal and items of clothing or blankets to the value of \$100 for a family of ten, or two bags of charcoal for \$50.

Winter in Afghanistan coincides with the Southern hemisphere’s Christmas so Mahboba’s Promise also ran its regular yearly Christmas campaign during this time. In what has become a regular practice, this involved primarily promoting its selection of Gifts that Give offerings: gift cards that simultaneously act as a donation of a much-appreciated item to Afghanistan, such as a sewing machine, while also acting as a present for one’s friend or loved one.

#### Narwoz

Nawroz or the Afghan New Year took place on March 20 in 2016 and, for a second time, Mahboba’s Promise used the occasion as the basis for an appeal. Once again its theme was based on the point that the New Year period in Afghanistan is a time for family, when children receive presents from their fathers; a time when the orphans of Mahboba’s Promise particularly feel their loss. As well as an appropriate offering of Gifts that Give items, a gift pack of food treats, clothing and stationery was created to send to the children.

#### End of Financial Year Appeal

The theme for the End of Financial Year appeal developed from the comment made by a retiring senior Red Cross official who made global headlines when he said ‘the world must not let Afghanistan become the forgotten crisis... the international community must keep their attention on Afghanistan. It’s far from being over’. Titled ‘Remember Afghanistan’ the campaign pointed to the relative lack of media visibility that Afghanistan was receiving in a region beset by war and instability.

#### One Off Appeals

There were also several one-off appeals during the 2015/16 Financial Year. In October 2015 a campaign was held for the people who had been displaced by the attack and takeover of the northern Afghanistan city of Kunduz by the Taliban. Around \$5,000 was able to be raised to contribute to meals for those who had been made homeless.

Then in December 2015, an appeal was launched to cover the costs of a large shipment of winter clothing to Afghanistan. Thanks to the generosity of supporters Mahboba’s Promise was able to easily cover the freight charges involved.

### EVENTS

#### Canberra

The first major event for the 2015/16 Financial Year took place in Canberra on July 25. Put together by a local support group, Capital Country Friends of Mahboba’s Promise, the activity was a cooking class generously led by the wife of the

## APPEALS AND EVENTS

Afghan Embassy to Australia at the time, Hamida Andisha. Longtime supporter and well-known Canberra-based celebrity Virginia Haussegger also attended. The recipes of the Afghan Cooking Masterclass were compiled into a booklet format.

### Love Marriage in Kabul

Throughout the year there were a number of screenings of the multi award-winning documentary that features the work of Mahboba in Afghanistan, Love Marriage in Kabul. Screening of the film provides an effective platform for fundraising and network-building for the organisation. In September it showed at the Persian Film Festival in Sydney's Leichhardt, then subsequent screenings took place in Auburn, North Sydney and Ryde. A screening on the NSW south coast at the pleasant Four Winds centre in Bermagui, kicked off the calendar year in January 2016.

In early November 2015, Mahboba was able to take advantage of a visit to Brisbane to bring together supporters for a brunch event. There she was able to personally keep attendees from south-east Queensland informed of the latest developments for the organisation.

### Cultural gathering

Later that month on 28 November, with the help of supporters in Sydney, a fundraising 'cultural event' was held in a private home. Based on the Open Heart Open Home concept designed to foster intercultural exchange and dialogue, around 60 people from both the Muslim and non-Muslim communities mixed in a good natured and collaborative effort to raise funds to build a wall around the Mahboba's Promise garden project in Parwan province.

### Nawroz

In March 2016, the 'Nawroz Fundraiser for an Edible Garden', also based on the Open Heart Open Home model, raised funds to contribute to the next stage of the Parwan garden project: preparation of soils, the building of a well and crop planting. This was also held at the home of a supporter and featured the uplifting music of energetic Qawwali group, Antarika.

### Schools Promise

Schools Promise A number of events were held through the Schools Promise program. These included more screenings of Love Marriage in Kabul at Wenona, Frensham, Strathfield Girls' High and Asquith Girls' High Schools.

Then there were special visits by Mahboba Rawi or other representatives of the organisation that coincided with fundraising activities. These included several events that have become annual dates in the calendar: Asquith Girls' High School for International Women's Day (11 March), Pittwater High School for Multicultural Day (20 May) and Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls' Campus for their Mother and Daughter Breakfast (5 September).

Other schools such as Glenwood High School, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School, Canberra Girls' Grammar, Epping Boys' High School and Waverley College amongst others, also held fundraising activities for Mahboba's Promise.

The highlight of the Schools Promise program was the Nawroz event held at the Parramatta Town Hall where around 100 students from a number of Sydney based schools came together to experience Afghan culture. Along with food, the children experienced a range of activities from calligraphy, henna art, Afghan dance and music. The event was such a success that it was determined to hold similar affairs on a regular basis.

### Support Group Events

Among other supporter groups, the Capitol Country Friends of Mahboba's Promise have been mentioned. As well as the Afghan Cooking Masterclass above, they held several fundraising events for Mahboba's Promise over the year, including stalls at the Fyshwick Markets (15 November) and participating in the Queanbeyan City Council's Garage Sale Trail (24 October).



## GOVERNANCE

### Mahboba Rawi

#### President

After fleeing Afghanistan in 1984 and spending the next two years in a Pakistani refugee camp, Mahboba Rawi witnessed firsthand the devastating effects that decades of conflict and oppression have had upon the country, and on its people. Despite suffering great personal hardship, Mahboba decided that she would dedicate her life to helping Afghanistan's most helpless and she founded Mahboba's Promise in 1998.

She made a promise "To never abandon the widows and orphans of Afghanistan, who had no-one else to turn to." This is the promise that drives Mahboba's work today.

Awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2010 for her humanitarian work, Mahboba Rawi continues to work tirelessly to implement aid and development work within Afghanistan.

Mahboba is also involved in promoting cross-cultural dialogue within the Australian community, currently serving as a member of the Multicultural NSW Regional Advisory Council (RAC) for the North Sydney region.

As President of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated, Mahboba is instrumental in ensuring the organisation fulfils its vision and mission of helping the people of Afghanistan.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 4/4*

### Khurshida Ajam

#### Vice President

Khurshida has over 20 years experience in commercial and consulting roles in sales, marketing and medical education, working with a number of blue chip companies. More recently she has focused on leadership development of individuals through executive business coaching.

Khurshida holds a Bachelor of Psychology and a Masters of Commerce from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) as well as an Executive Business Coaching Certificate, an Advanced Development Coaching Certificates (ICCP) and is accredited in the CPI260R Leadership Assessment Tool. She is member of American Society of Training and Development and has a passion for Women in Leadership.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 2/4*

### Kumar Sri-Pathma

#### Treasurer

Kumar Sri-Pathma is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) and a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, United Kingdom (FCMA, CGMA). He has several years of Finance and Accounting experience working in Sri Lanka, Zambia, New Zealand and now in Australia.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 4/4*

### Martin O'Dea

#### Secretary

Martin brings to the management committee his design, strategic planning and graphic skills. With a keen eye for detail, Martin has been assisting Mahboba's Promise since 2009 on compliance issues, the strategic plan, accreditation and office systems management. For the last five years he has formatted the annual report, including this one, and is the chairman of the compliance committee.

Martin holds a bachelor of Landscape Architecture and is Associate Director at CLOUSTON Associates Landscape Architects Sydney office where he is the design standards manager.

*Re-elected 25/3/14 Meetings attended: 3/4*

## SUB COMMITTEES AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

#### Sub-Committee

Compliance  
Child Protection  
DGR Afghanistan Relief Fund  
Marketing & Communications  
Schools Promise

#### Chair

Martin O'Dea  
Mahboba Rawi  
Kumar Sri-Pathma  
Khurshida Ajam  
Mahboba Rawi

## GOVERNANCE

### Manijah Hakim

#### Ordinary member

Manijah holds a Masters in Islamic Studies and has extensive experience working with torture and trauma survivors, refugees, people in crisis and the most vulnerable. Together with her knowledge of the after effects of war, displacement and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and her intimate knowledge of Afghan culture and religion, Manijah is an invaluable asset to Mahboba's Promise.

Manijah came to Australia as a refugee after fleeing Afghanistan after her father was imprisoned and tortured for speaking against the Government. She is currently undertaking a masters in social work and completed a graduate certificate in international and community development. Manijah is the coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme and works with the Schools Promise Committee.

Manijah is the coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme and works with the Schools Promise Committee.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 2/4*

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

### Nages Azizi

#### Ordinary member

Nages is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology. She has previously undertaken a training course on Child protection and Protective Behaviors.

This experience is relevant to the work of Mahboba's Promise, in particular maintaining and improving the organisation's Child Protection measures.

Nages has a previously volunteered as a personal assistant for Mahboba Rawi, helping with answering emails and other administrative tasks. She has also served on the Youth Committee, assisting in organising the Nowruz inter-schools event in March 2016.

*Appointed 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 1/3*

### Mohammed Ashraf Al Dawood

#### Ordinary member

Mohammed Ashraf brings his experience as a finance and tax consultant to the Mahboba's Promise Management Committee. As a registered accountant, Mohammed has a strong understanding of financial management processes.

He is able to use this knowledge to ensure Mahboba's Promise complies with the required financial controls set out by ACFID and ACBAR.

*Appointed 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 1/3*

#### Ex Officio

##### Office Manager

Al has worked in various government agencies for 20 years, including 10 years in management capacity. Al's professional field of expertise is in organisational development. He holds a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration and a Masters of Adult Education. In 2013, Al joined Mahboba's Promise as Operations Manager.

The role encompasses, liaising with Afghanistan, governance, fundraising and office administration.

Al left Mahboba's Promise in September 2015, but still assists in a volunteer capacity.

Alex Bellamy attended on his behalf for the remaining meetings

not remunerated and each person has provided their services on a voluntary basis. 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 four to six times a 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.



## 2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

An independent audit of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated's financial accounts for the year 2015/2016 was conducted by:

Joseph Santangelo  
(Partner)  
Nexia Court & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
Level 16,  
1 Market Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
+61 2 9251 4600

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



The Committee Members  
Mahboba's Promise Incorporated Australia  
PO Box 6234  
NORTH RYDE NSW 2113

Deat Committee Members

### **AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SUBDIVISION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012**

In accordance with subdivision 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated Australia.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2016 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Nexia Sydney**  
Chartered Accountants

**Joseph Santangelo**  
Partner

Sydney  
Date: 21.10.16

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## 2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



### 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 statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' declaration.

#### *Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *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 controls relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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## 2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated is prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Report Report on the Requirements of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015 (NSW)

We have audited the financial report as required by section 24(2) of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)*. Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and *Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015*.

Because of any inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instances of non-compliance with the requirements proscribed in the above-mentioned Act and Regulation as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) The financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial results of fundraising appeal activities for the financial year ended 30 June 2016;
- b) The financial report has been properly drawn up, and the associated records have been properly kept for the financial year ended 30 June 2016, in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and Regulations;
- c) Money received as a result of fundraising appeal activities conducted during the financial year ended 30 June 2016 has, in all material respects, been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and Regulations; and
- d) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph Santangelo".

**Nexia Sydney**  
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph Santangelo".

**Joseph Santangelo**  
Partner

Sydney  
Date: 21.10.16

## 2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### To the members of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated

We have audited the summarized Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct Summary Financial Report of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated on pages 19 to 22 of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the information reported in the ACFID summarized 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. 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 Sydney**  
Chartered Accountants

**Joseph Santangelo**  
Partner

Sydney  
Date: 21.10.16

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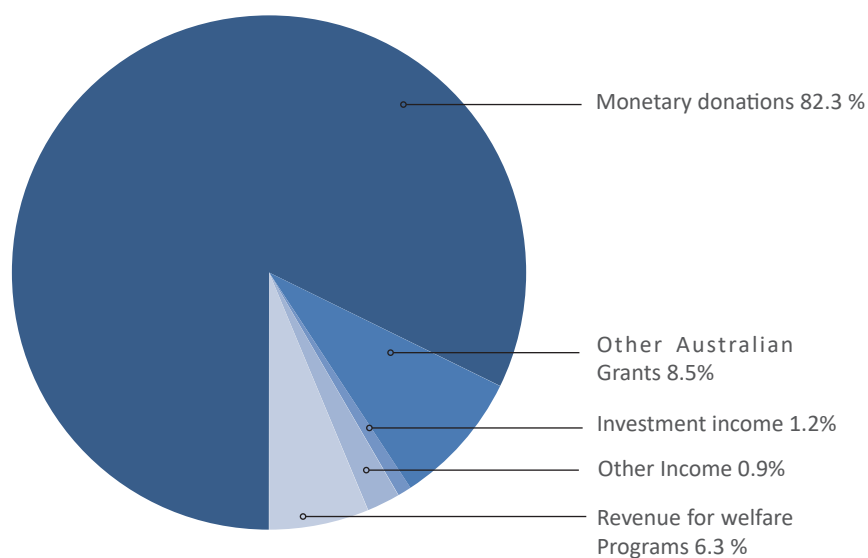
## 2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880		
ACFID FORMATTED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015 (Statement of Financial Performance)	2016	2015
<b>REVENUE</b>	\$	\$
<b>Donations &amp; Gifts</b>		
Monetary	823,362	841,659
Non Monetary	0	0
<b>Bequests &amp; Legacies</b>	0	0
<b>Grants</b>		
AusAID	0	0
Other Australian	84,800	68,200
Other Overseas	0	0
<b>Investment Income</b>	8,837	11,722
<b>Other Income</b>	20,881	25,974
<b>Revenue for Welfare Programs</b>	62,962	67,098
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,000,842</b>	<b>1,014,653</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>		
<b>International programs</b>		
Funds to international programs - development	563,523	483,234
Program support costs	141,389	113,799
<b>Community education</b>	17,206	21,312
<b>Fundraising costs</b>		
Public	156,272	147,756
Government, multilateral and private	693	7,609
<b>Accountability and Administration</b>	50,915	53,497
<b>Non-Monetary Expenditure</b>	0	0
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>929,998</b>	<b>827,207</b>
<b>Donations applied</b>	55,796	52,192
<b>Expenditure for welfare programs</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>993,594</b>	<b>879,399</b>
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	7,248	135,254

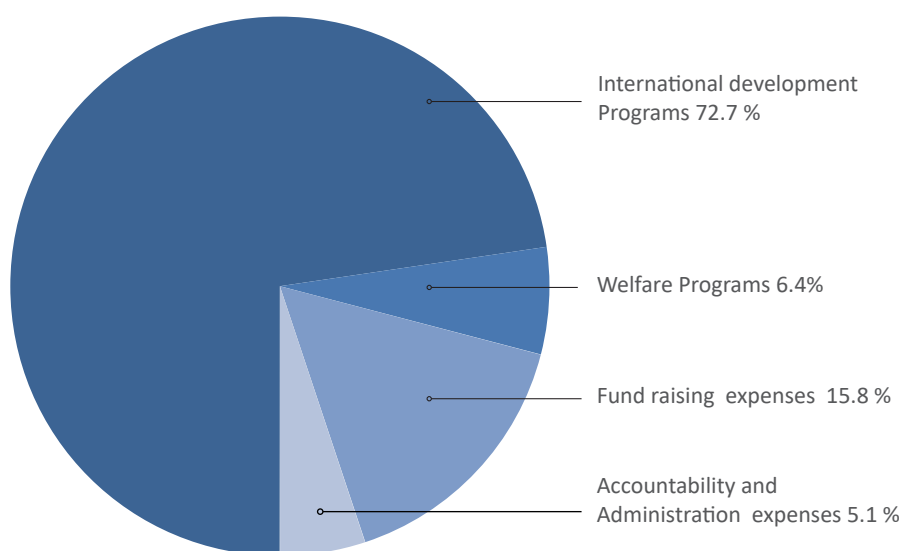
Note: During the financial year, the agency had no transactions in the Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs category or in the Domestic Program category.

## 2015 - 2016 • 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.*

## 2015 - 2016 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880		
ACFID FORMATTED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2016 (Statement of Financial Position)	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	751,904	721,257
Trade and other receivables	74,097	67,003
Inventories	0	0
Assets held for sale	0	0
Other financial assets	10,877	7,018
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>836,878</b>	<b>795,278</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	0	0
Other financial assets	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	5,672	7,125
Investment property	0	0
Intangibles	0	0
Other non-current assets	0	0
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>5,672</b>	<b>7,125</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>842,550</b>	<b>802,403</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	8,372	2,583
Borrowings	0	0
Current tax liabilities	7,602	6,966
Other financial liabilities	0	0
Provisions	22,962	19,293
Unearnt Revenue	20,948	0
Other	0	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>59,884</b>	<b>28,842</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	0	0
Other financial liabilities	0	0
Provisions	15,856	14,001
Other	0	0
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>15,856</b>	<b>14,001</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>75,740</b>	<b>42,843</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>766,810</b>	<b>759,560</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	0	0
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>766,810</b>	<b>759,560</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>766,810</b>	<b>759,560</b>



## 2015 - 2016 • 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 2016

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2015	<b>759,560</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>759,560</b>
Adjustments or changes in equity due to, for example, adoptions of new accounting standards items of other comprehensive income				
Excess of revenue over expenses	7,250	0	0	7,250
Other amounts transferred (to) or from reserves				
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2016	<b>766,810</b>			<b>766,810</b>

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 2016

	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available end of year
<b>Designated Purpose or Appeal</b>				
Dick Smith PV Education Centre	0	50,000	50,000	0
Make a Mark Australia	0	27,000	27,000	0
Muslim Aid Australia	0	0	0	0
Hausmann Communications	0	0	0	0
Bio Distributors	0	0	0	0
Multi-cultural affairs NSW	0	7,800	7,800	0
<b>Total for Other Non-Designated Purposes</b>	721,257	916,045	885,397	751,904
<b>TOTAL</b>	721,257	1,000,845	970,197	751,904

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](http://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](http://www.mahbobaspromise.org) or writing to Mahboba's Promise Inc., PO Box 6234, North Ryde NSW 2113, or emailing us at [office@mahbobaspromise.org](mailto:office@mahbobaspromise.org).



*Mahboba with Children at the Australian Embassy • Photo: Khalid Malikaqada*



## Sponsors thank you

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors Bio-Distributors: Biodynamic & Organic wholesalers of Tasmania [www.biodistributors.com.au](http://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

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## Mahboba's Promise Inc. Australia

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web: [www.mahbobaspromise.org](http://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 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](mailto: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](http://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

Khalid Malikzada





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



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ABRN 135 823 880

Mobile phone repair training programme graduates

Issue C Final