



**MAHBOBA'S
PROMISE**

An Australian Aid Organisation



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON



The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO

December, 2022

Message from Patron

Even for Afghanistan, which has known much hardship over recent decades, 2021 has been a tumultuous year. From the on-going effects of the pandemic to drought and food insecurity and the events leading to the August 15th change of government, the people of Afghanistan continue to suffer. It is reassuring to know that the work of Mahboba's Promise has carried on without pause, to support the most disadvantaged widows and children during this difficult time.

Mahboba's Promises' Hope Houses remain full of children, where they continue to be cared for in safety and good health, loved and educated. The sustainable employment programs continue to provide employment skills and jobs for young people. The Parwan Valley garden and permaculture farm continue to provide tons of fresh fruit and vegetables to Hope Houses and to the hundreds of widows who are supported by Mahboba's Promise, and the wonderful Confectionery Factory still sells cakes and biscuits to the people of Kabul.

Just as encouraging are the dozens of volunteers and staff who work long hours in Australia and in Afghanistan to provide the resources needed to do this vital work. It is wonderful to see so many members of the Mahboba's Promise family giving years of dedicated service.

I have known Mahboba Rawi OAM for many years now and I have witnessed her life of service to the people of Afghanistan. I am delighted that her son Nawid Cina has taken on his mother's mantle and spent 2021 working extraordinarily hard leading a team to evacuate vulnerable young people to Australia. They are both to be congratulated.

Despite the uncertainty, Mahboba's Promise has continued its vital work in Afghanistan. I am proud to be Patron of this important organisation and commend their work to you.

Office of the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO
GPO Box 2434 | Brisbane QLD 4001



I AM PROUD TO
BE PATRON OF
THIS IMPORTANT
ORGANISATION AND
COMMEND THEIR WORK
TO YOU.

The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD
CVO, 25th Governor General of Australia

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

We have come such a long way since I founded Mahboba's Promise nearly three decades ago.

We are a successful, resilient and impactful organisation that has flourished despite the difficulties of 2021. And 2021 has been without doubt our most challenging year. I am immensely proud to report that despite the uncertain situation in Afghanistan, we continued to provide the vital support needed by our vulnerable children and widows. We have not stopped our services for a moment. I extend my deepest gratitude to the exceptional Mahboba's Promise team in Afghanistan, who led us safely through this time despite the immense challenges. You are extraordinary.

When we hear of the poverty and instability commonly reported about Afghanistan, it would be easy to lose hope for my beloved people. In fact, I am driven to do better and to strive even harder to provide education, health services, training opportunities, employment, social enterprises and a safe and loving environment for the children who live in our Hope Houses. My Promise is more important than ever, while I live and breathe I will serve the children and widows of Afghanistan.

None of this can be done without the remarkable support of communities and individuals around Australia and internationally. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters during 2021. We not only received a substantial increase to our fundraising, but were inundated with clothes, household items, fresh food, offers of educational support and other services to help us

resettle people arriving in Australia. I thank you all so very much for the love you have shown the people of Afghanistan through your generosity.

And Mahboba's Promise would not function without the dedication of our staff, Management Committee and volunteers. After 26 years I am deeply proud that we are still, largely a volunteer run organisation. This is very dear to me and volunteers will remain an important part of the Mahboba's Promise culture. Equally, our wonderful staff and our Management Committee ensure that we remain efficient, compliant and look after our stakeholders as they would expect. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

And finally I want to pay special tribute to my beautiful children Tamana and Surosh (also known as Nawid), and my adored grandson Ali. Tamana has been my angel over so many years now, always supporting my work and me in every way possible. Ali is my love and my rock. To Surosh, I say you are my special hero. At the age of just 25 you led a team of experienced experts to achieve the impossible of welcoming hundreds of people to Australia, under the most difficult of circumstances. You have achieved greatness in your life already and your efforts will be remembered and revered by generations to come. I owe you everything.

I am more determined than ever to help build a secure future for the vulnerable children and widows of Afghanistan, and I ask you to walk with me and share in my promise.



Mahboba Rawi, Founder of Mahboba's Promise

MY PROMISE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER,
WHILE I LIVE AND BREATHE I WILL SERVE THE
CHILDREN AND WIDOWS OF AFGHANISTAN.

Mahboba Rawi



MESSAGE FROM OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This financial year has been the most momentous in the history of Mahboba's Promise.

It has required us to adapt, expand, and deal effectively with new challenges brought on by the events of August 2021. Through your support, we are deeply proud of what we have achieved in a time of critical need. This report outlines some of these achievements, and the very real task we have ahead of us in our commitment to the vulnerable women and children of Afghanistan, and those newly arrived Afghans who have settled in Australia.

August 15th 2021 saw the fall of the Government of Afghanistan and the rise of a new regime. Whilst our offices were closed due to the Sydney lockdown, Mahboba's Promise had to respond urgently and effectively to this crisis. Our primary focus during the initial crisis was the evacuation of at-risk staff before the 31 August deadline provided to western organisations.

We quickly came to understand that orphans in two of our Hope Houses were also at risk. These orphanages, which also house our programme offices, carried the strongest public connection to Australia. We identified over 100 staff and vulnerable children to be included in our evacuation efforts.

Sourosh [Nawid] Cina, Mahboba Rawi's son, led the evacuation and worked alongside Mahboba on the wider humanitarian response on the ground. Our round-the-clock efforts to evacuate 17 individuals

to Australia in September 2021 became national news, featured on [The Daily Telegraph](#), [The Project](#), and [other news platforms](#). We mobilised in Sydney to supplement settlement services for these new arrivals. Many of you donated to the emergency appeal for this cohort, and we are glad to report the arrivals are safe and thriving.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Sarah Dale and the team at Refugee Advice and Casework Service [RACS] for their tireless assistance with the evacuation effort.

From October onwards, we continued evacuation work and expanded our humanitarian efforts. It was evident emergency relief was the primary need, as the country fell into complete economic crisis. International aid programs were withdrawn or suspended, tens of millions lost their livelihoods, and millions were starving. Mahboba's Promise however continued to provide aid to those displaced by conflict in Panjshir Valley, and we expanded operations into Southern Afghanistan for the first time following the earthquakes to provide medical support and food relief for women and children.

In March 2022, Sourosh led a humanitarian mission on the ground in Afghanistan, making Mahboba's Promise one of the first Australian NGOs to send Australian staff into the country since the change in regime. Whilst Sourosh was on the ground, he worked with Sarah Dale, and both were able to provide critical information that eventuated in the remaining visas for at-risk orphans, staff and widows being granted. Within this cohort is the largest group of

unaccompanied children Australia has accepted in its history. This year, with your support, we were able to make history, and change the lives of many.

Whilst in Afghanistan, we assessed the new reality and began planning how to expand our work. In addition to expanding our support for widows and orphans, we have developed and proposed a program that will provide alternative high school education for 10,000 girls who have lost their opportunity to attend school. This program is due to begin in late 2022.

Mahboba's Promise has adapted to meet the rapidly growing needs of vulnerable women and children in Afghanistan. Our focus has been on the ground, and on the work, and we are now coming to terms with our new reality as a larger organisation, in both Australia and Afghanistan. We are taking the governance and operational steps to acclimatise to this and have had a number of new additions to our team to ensure we can continue to carry out our mission and grow sustainably.

The past year has shown that organisations like ours – highly adaptable, rooted in the communities we serve, and committed to serve in any circumstance – are needed in Afghanistan more than ever.

Your support is critical to the work we do. We need it always. And we look forward to bringing you along on this journey.



Nawid (Sourosh) Cina, Vice President of Mahboba's Promise

Photo: Nawid [Sourosh] Cina, Vice President of Mahboba's Promise

ABOUT US

Who Are We

Mahboba's Promise is an Australian non-profit organisation dedicated to helping disadvantaged women and children in Afghanistan, and Australia.

Mahboba's Promise was founded by Mahboba Rawi OAM, an Afghan refugee and now an Australian citizen, who has experienced first-hand the effects of a country torn apart by years of war and civil unrest. With Mahboba's intimate knowledge of Afghanistan, Mahboba's Promise has spent years responding effectively and flexibly to meet the needs of so many of the country's orphans and widows. Mahboba's Promise has established schools, shelters and health clinics across Afghanistan and provided numerous sponsorships to widows and orphans in need.

Mahboba's Promise has significantly expanded its infrastructure to suppose a large cohort of newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan in Australia.

Mission

To provide effective development aid to disadvantaged Afghan women, widows, children and orphans.

Vision

To achieve our mission through sustainable development programs such as the establishment of schools, health clinics and community facilities destined to be operated by local authorities and communities.

Values And Principles



Be equitable and non-discriminative



Establish self-sufficiency



Secure basic human rights



Enhance quality of life



Build moral of Afghan people affected by war



Restore faith in the future of Afghanistan



Effective consultation with all stakeholders



Photo: Mahboba Rawi stands proud with a group of schoolgirls supported by Mahboba's Promise.

TRAILBLAZER'S JOURNEY IN AID OF AFGHAN ORPHANS AND CHILDREN

In a remarkable act of courage Surosh Cina led a Mahboba's Promise humanitarian mission into Afghanistan in March 2022, just months after the regime change. During his time in Afghanistan, Surosh was able to witness the continuation of the ever more critical work of Mahboba's Promise. He was able to lend enormous support to the staff of our Kabul office, to assess where the most urgent development gaps lie and above all to show the widows and children in our care, and the broader community in Afghanistan, that we have not abandoned them. During Surosh's trip, two emergency distributions were carried out. The first was in Kabul, where over 500 widows and their children were provided with food supplies that would last the month. A warm food distribution was also supplied where the widows and children were able to eat a freshly prepared meal. Surosh spoke with dozens of widows, identifying any outstanding needs and was able to provide targeted medical and educational support for many of the children. A second humanitarian distribution was undertaken in Panjshir Valley, a live conflict zone. The distribution provided over 300 families food for the upcoming month of Ramadan.

IN JUST A WEEK, MAHBOBA'S PROMISE WAS ABLE TO REACH OVER 5000 INDIVIDUALS THROUGH THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS, ENSURING THEY WOULD HAVE FOOD TO BREAK THEIR FAST.

Whilst in Panjshir, Surosh visited the Panjshir Hope House, and was able to take the kids out to the park for the first time since the regime change. As Panjshir was a point of conflict during the regime change, our Hope House also received significant damage. Thankfully the children were evacuated to another location during this time and were safe. Surosh assessed the damage to the Hope House and sent reports back to our Sydney office for urgent renovations.

The visit to Afghanistan showed us that following the crisis, food security was a fundamental concern. It is not uncommon for our widows to have 7 or more mouths to feed. As widows now struggle to work, basic provisions to their families are critical. Surosh asked about 50 of our widows to come to Hope House in Kabul on a certain day for a needs assessment. An estimated 800 widows turned up. We ensured that none were turned away without some form of support.

Surosh's visit reassured thousands of widows, orphans and other beneficiaries that they would continue to receive our support, from food supplies to education and vocational training opportunities. His visit reminded the vulnerable children in our Hope Houses that they are loved by their mother Mahboba and her family the same as ever, and that we are doing everything we can to provide for them. Surosh was able to spend time with the children and be a part of their daily lives for a time, taking them in small groups to the market for new shoes or local treats.

Whilst in Afghanistan, Surosh was able to provide critical intel from the ground to the Australian Government. This intel proved critical and built on 10 months of advocacy work undertaken by Surosh, Mahboba's Promise, and its many supporters for the evacuation of at-risk orphans, widows and staff. As a result, Surosh was able to secure an unprecedented number of visas, including all the remaining at risk orphans.

Surosh's trip demonstrated the commitment we continue to have towards Afghanistan. Through his courage in leading the mission he also demonstrated the love and care we hold for each of these children and our utter devotion we hold to bettering their lives. He displayed his big heart and a love for the kids he supports, as well as his love for a country that so desperately needs our support.



HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES



Internal Displaced Persons Camp

The 2021 political upheaval in Afghanistan triggered a devastating humanitarian catastrophe as thousands of internally displaced persons congregated in the relative safety of Kabul in an attempt to flee violence. As more people fled to Kabul, a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) sprung up in the vicinity of Mahboba's Promise Kabul Hope House. At its peak, this camp contained an estimated 800 families, or as many as 7,000 displaced persons. Mahboba's Promise initially worked alongside other aid organisations, providing urgent humanitarian assistance to those in the camp. However, as the political situation in Afghanistan continued to deteriorate, it soon became clear that Mahboba's Promise was the only remaining aid organisation supporting those in the makeshift camp, people, who had no other means of obtaining life-sustaining essentials. Determined to stand by these vulnerable people, Mahboba sent the Mahboba's Promise team to the camp to supply emergency shelter, fresh food, clean water, and basic medical supplies. Despite initial resistance from new local authorities, Mahboba's Promise was able to negotiate access to the IDP camp, and continued to provide humanitarian aid to the camp for months.

The internally displaced peoples were eventually supported in their repatriation towards their homes, many having fled conflict from the Kunduz Province. For those who lost their homes, Mahboba's Promise provided aid that would allow them to begin their lives anew.



Emergency Response in Afghanistan

In June 2022, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck south-eastern Afghanistan with devastating impact on Paktika Province. Given our significant presence on the ground, Mahboba's Promise was well-placed to contribute to the response to this disaster. With assistance from our partners and donors, Mahboba's Promise deployed a team to the quake affected areas to provide critical humanitarian aid. Paktika Province is a remote part of Afghanistan and as a small team we could respond quickly and nimbly. This included the provision of medical aid, shelter, essential food, cooking equipment and clothing. Mahboba's Promise reached hundreds of families suffering in the post-quake devastation. Included in our convoy to the affected region was our doctor, who arrived on the scene within a day and was able to assist with quake-related medical attention.

Our emergency relief was funded in part through an earthquake appeal in Australia, where the Australian community yet again helped us support the most vulnerable women, children and families in Afghanistan. Our expertise in assisting widows and orphans also allowed us to target our aid effectively towards vulnerable women and children.



7,000

Displaced persons were supported

800

Families were supported by Mahboba's Promise



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Confectionary Project

We launched our Confectionery Project in 2014 in collaboration with an established company in Kabul, the Dunya Confectionery Factory. The confectionery factory operated by Mahboba's Promise has grown into a self-sufficient social enterprise providing vocational training, work placement, and employment opportunities for young people. The factory forms a vital first step for graduates of our Hope Houses in their journey into the workforce. With the support of a generous grant provided by the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program, Mahboba's Promise has been able to provide 6-month training programs to upskill orphans and widows in production, marketing, business management and bookkeeping. Currently there are 14 orphans and 21 widows enrolled in the training program, and the skills they learn will enable them to be self-sufficient in their lives, and give them access to greater opportunities and career prospects.

The confectionery factory leases two store fronts to sell its products, and supplies 34 shops in Kabul. The

business is currently thriving, with a loyal customer base in the surrounding community. The factory receives so many orders, particularly during Eid festivals, that it sometimes struggles to meet the large amount of demand for its products. The project has grown to be self-sustaining, and Mahboba's Promise is no longer required to support the factory financially. Profit from the business is invested back into the store, as well as assisting with the operating costs of the Kabul Hope house. We are looking to assist with the upgrade and purchase of new equipment in the future to ensure that this successful social enterprise can continue to provide valuable jobs and training for local orphans and widows.

Sourosh visited the Confectionary Factory during the March trip, which continued to operate with strength following the crisis. The shopfront has doubled in size, having undergone recent renovations.

The factory continues to provide apprenticeships in baking to many of our orphans, representing a success story of building self-sufficiency. An example of one of these success stories is Safullah. Safullah



is the Manager of the factory and grew up at the Kabul Hope House. He is 25 years old and graduated with a law degree at university. He undertook his apprenticeship at the confectionary factory whilst he was studying at university, ensuring he had a practical skill that he could always fall back on in case he could not find work in his field of study. As Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment globally, securing professional employment is extremely difficult. In the end, Safullah proved exceptionally skilful and continued full time at the factory. Now he manages a team of over 10, many of which are orphans from the Hope Houses, who like him, are undertaking apprenticeships alongside their studies. It is particularly moving seeing one of the boys who grew up in the orphanages come to lead in the factory, whilst being able to mentor and train the next generation of boys who grew up in the same place as him. Safullah is married with a child and is able to provide for his family from the work he does at the factory.

These orphans undertake apprenticeships at the store, where they learn a practical skill that can

allow them to generate their own income. They undertake these apprenticeships alongside higher education that Mahboba's Promise sponsors. This ensures that they are provided a practical skill that can be used for income in the case where they cannot gain employment in the field of their studies. Afghanistan unfortunately has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment globally. The Confectionary Factory mitigates this.



Parwan Garden

The Parwan Community Garden is situated in Qalander Khalil village in the northwest region of Parwan Province. Mahboba's Promise established the garden in collaboration with ten women from the village, who received training in agricultural techniques to cultivate the garden. These ten women have gone on to train other women in tending to the garden, building a sustainable source of food and income in their community.

Permaculture Farm

Food security continues to be a major issue for the population in Afghanistan. The Permaculture Project operated by Mahboba's Promise continues to provide delicious, nutritious, fresh produce and dairy products to orphaned children residing in the Hope Houses.

Initiated by Mahboba's Promise and funded in conjunction with Muslim Aid Australia, the project consists of orchards, vegetable farms and a co-located dairy and cattle co-operative. It is located on the outskirts of Kabul, a short drive from the Mahboba's Promise office.

The project is environmentally sustainable and focused on producing zero-waste. Solar energy, provided through two solar systems, operates 2 water supply stations for irrigation. Water tanks provide water storage, and a greenhouse provides a space for further production of produce.

Utilising established Afghan farming techniques, the permaculture program not only provides nourishing food for people in Mahboba's Promise Programs but also provides permaculture training and skills development for Afghan women and community members. There are two classrooms dedicated to this training which is offered primarily to disenfranchised widows and orphans.

The program aims to strengthen the connection between widows and orphans and the environment.



Photo: Permaculture Farm, initiated by Mahboba's Promise and funded in conjunction with Muslim Aid Australia

In the 2021/22 financial year, cold weather affected the growth cycle of the trees in the orchards. The harvests affected were peaches, apricots, palms and cherries. Grape vines were less affected by the cold weather and enough grapes were harvested and supplied to the orphans and some of the displaced families in Kabul. The farm produced an abundance of tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, green beans, onions, turnips and other vegetables to meet the needs of the orphans.

Further income-producing activities were undertaken. The leasing of a further 14,000 sqm of land continued. 50% paid for by Mahboba's Promise and the other 50% by farmers. Produce was sent to Hope House and to market. Any proceeds are divided 50% to Mahboba's Promise and 50% to farmers.

Cultivation of Hing (Ferula) at our plantation continued throughout the year. Hing is one of the most important medicinal and export plants in Afghanistan. Initially planted in March 2021, it takes 3 years to mature to harvest level. We expect to find a good market for this product in Afghanistan.


The greenhouse delivered no produce this year due to the resignation of Mr Abdul Nazir.



Women's Dairy Co-Op Project

The dairy co-operative established adjacent to our Permaculture Farm continues to operate. There are 36 animals on the farm (cows, calves and ox cows). Clover is grown on land beside the greenhouse to feed the animals during summertime. Additional animal feed is supplied. The Co-op not only produces milk but also calf meat which is supplied to markets and butchers.

Jamaudin & his family live on the farm as caretakers, he and Mr Sahel take care of the animals.

A young man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and a dark backpack, is smiling and holding several books. The background is a lush green wall of leaves.

Nasratullah, a student supported by Mahboba's Promise.

The LBW Trust University

The tumultuous events of the past year have impacted the lives of each of the students sponsored under the LBW Trust. For the safety and security of these students, we cannot release detailed information about their situation, however we can report they are safe and continue to receive the support of the LBW Trust to support themselves, their families, and their ongoing studies as needed.



Mina, a student supported by Mahboba's Promise.

Widows Outreach Program

The Widows Outreach Program is a long-term program that was initiated by Mahboba's Promise in 2004. The aim of the program is to support widows who have lost the breadwinner of their family and have no means to support themselves and their children.

Families who qualify for the program receive food, shelter, education, vocational training and other life necessities. Children are able to focus on their studies instead of having to help their mothers fulfil tasks as they struggle to survive.

During the year, in excess of 165 families were beneficiaries of the program and they continue to be heavily dependent on the support provided by Mahboba's Promise. The program can be life-changing for these families, helping many eventually progress to independence and self-sufficiency.

Mahboba's Promise supplies each family with a monthly grocery pack that includes staples such as flour, cooking oil, sugar, tea and other necessities.

The program has continued to operate throughout the change of government in Afghanistan. Mohammad Reza 'Mohajer' is the Sponsorship Officer who manages the Widows Outreach Program. He was an orphan who was supported by Mahboba's Promise in his youth and has an in-depth understanding of the needs of widows and orphans.



165

Families were supported by the Widows Outreach Program

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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Badakhshan Hope House

The Badakhshan Hope House was established when Mahboba's Promise took over the administration of a previously abandoned orphanage. Initially, Mahboba's Promise visited Badakhshan province in 2017 in order to survey the Yaftal district for locations suited to the construction of a new health clinic. However, during their work, the team was shocked to discover 25 orphaned children living in an abandoned orphanage in Fazarabad city.

Mahboba's Promise's quick action to resume the operation of the facility protected the children who were still living in the decrepit and abandoned orphanage. A new building was later constructed, which finished in 2020, to house the children. The new building consists of three floors equipped with a kitchen, dining facilities, toilets and showers, a solar panel system and battery, water pumps, and essential living and accommodation supplies for the children.

Today the centre provides accommodation, education, and well-being services for 42 orphans, and is situated in a beautiful area surrounded by fruit trees and large open spaces for the children to play outside. The facility is staffed by six full-time workers, and the children receive in traditional subjects, including math, writing and Islamic studies.



Kabul Hope House

The Kabul Hope House was established in 2004 soon after Mahboba's visit to Kabul, with the aim of providing support for the education, welfare, and development of orphans and widows in Kabul. The Kabul Hope House continues to operate despite the difficult environment in Afghanistan. Currently, it houses children ranging in age from 6 to 18, who are supported by the Hope House Kabul staff. The children have successfully passed their annual exams and have achieved good results across the board. In efforts to manage the COVID-19 outbreak, staff and some of the older children have been vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson COVID Vaccination, and other hygiene efforts including handwashing, and the wearing of facemasks are in place to mitigate the risk of transmission. A number of our vulnerable young people, ready to graduate from Kabul Hope House, are now undergoing vocational training and work placement at Mahboba's Promise Kabul Confectionary Factory, becoming skilled in a trade that will see them grow into independent young adults able to support themselves.





Panjshir Hope House

The Panjshir Hope House was built through a collaboration between Mahboba's Promise and Australian philanthropist Dick Smith.

The centre is a three story building with 21 rooms, kitchen and dining facilities, toilets, shower room and a hall. It currently houses 31 children ranging from the ages of 3 to 15. The centre is equipped with solar panels and two generators to ensure a consistent supply of electricity. The building itself is currently undergoing renovations and routine maintenance.

As of the 2021-2022 financial year, all the children had passed their exams and are doing well in school. Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan is currently committed to enrolling new orphans from the community in the centre.



Takhar Hope House

In 2010, Mahboba's Promise raised funding to purchase a plot of land in Takhar Province, naming it the "Takhar Home & Education centre". The facility consists of two floors, and is equipped with a number of showers and toilets. Due to routine renovations, there are currently no beneficiaries living full time in the Hope House, however Mahboba's Promise staff have been running community education programs for local children from the facility. The children learn traditional school subjects, as well as undergo Islamic studies. Mahboba's Promise hopes to return the Takhar facility to full operations and enrol up to 10 overnight orphans as soon as renovations are complete.



RAMADAN AND QURBAN

Mahboba's Promise is dedicated to providing support and assistance to vulnerable women and children in Afghanistan, and during two of the holiest times for the people of Afghanistan and Muslims around the world.

In the holy month of Ramadan, Mahboba's Promise delivered 200 bags of rice from local markets to widows and their families, ensuring that these bags met specific cultural and local requirements. This generous act of kindness enabled each family to have enough food for 10 people during the Islamic month of fasting.

During the Eid Al-Adha celebrations of Dhul-Hijjah, Mahboba's Promise provided 200 widows and their families with an incredible 1,215 Qurbani meat packs.

A young girl, Mehrangiz and her widowed mother came to Hope House to receive Qurban Meat. She was happy and said

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE RECEIVED QURBAN MEAT FROM HERE AND I CAN EAT MEAT WITH MY SIBLINGS AND CELEBRATE EID DAYS HAPPILY. THANK YOU FOR GIVING US QURBAN MEAT

Mehrangiz



Photo: Mahranjiz's mother.

Mahboba's Promise is committed to providing food aid that respects the dignity of those we serve. Our food projects are designed to both provide relief and development initiatives, allowing us to reach even more families in need.

Our commitment to purchasing locally also extends beyond just relief. We understand that by investing in communities through trade and employment opportunities, we can create a sustainable defence against future poverty or potential crises.

We have worked closely with local communities over many years, and take great care of their specific needs before deciding how to distribute our food packages according to religious customs and cultural sensitivities. In this way, we ensure that no one is excluded from receiving assistance, regardless of belief or identity.



Photo: Mahranjiz

200

Widows and their families were provide with Qurbani meat packs

1,215

Qurbani meat packs were given during Dhul-Hijjah

GIVING AT HOME

Donation Drive

Over the course of 2021/22, Mahboba's Promise conducted a successful physical donation drive. With the help of countless volunteer hours, Mahboba's Promise has been able to secure, sort, and prepare thousands of donation items for distribution to recently resettled Afghan refugees in Australia. These items include a range of goods, such as furniture, clothing, sanitary goods, and cookware. These are essential to recently resettled refugees and migrants, and access to these essential items helps to ensure they can live fulfilling and self-sufficient lives in Australia.



Multicultural BBQ

In January, Mahboba's Promise held a multi-cultural BBQ designed to promote stronger ties between the Afghan community and the wider Australian community. It was a magic day full of fun, laughter and sharing of cultures, highlighting the exquisite foods that the Afghan community are bringing to Australia's shores, as well as wonderful Afghan music. The event helped to develop a support network for newly arrived Afghan refugees by connecting them with members of their local communities, and helping people to start friendships.

We gratefully acknowledge that catering and other costs were provided courtesy of a generous grant provided by the National Australia Day Council.

Bibi's House

Led by Mahboba herself, Bibi's house remains an important program that provides a safe space for Afghan refugee women and children to learn new skills, develop friendships and seek mutual support as they navigate their settlement experience in Australia. Participants in Bibi's House often struggle with difficult domestic situations, language and financial barriers. Bibi's house empowers these women through educational workshops that develop skills, capacities and confidence, and which provide a safe space for asking questions and looking for answers. In the last financial year, Bibi's house has offered swimming programs for these women courtesy of funding provided by St George Bank.

SUCCESS STORIES

Mina

Mina was an orphan at our Kabul Hope House. During her school studies, she demonstrated her capabilities as a smart and capable young woman. Mina undertook her studies in law at Kabul University, where she was supported by Mahboba's Promise, and received generous financial support from the Learning for a Better World (LBW) Trust. Throughout her studies, Mina demonstrated enormous courage and resilience, particularly while continuing to undertake her studies during turbulent times in Afghanistan. Mina bravely participated in her graduation ceremony last year, despite the fall of the western backed government regime in Afghanistan. She has continued to work with Mahboba's Promise to support the next generation of orphans, aiding them in their school studies such as math, writing and Islamic studies.

Badakshan Maternal Health Clinic

Afghanistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with 638 maternal deaths in 2021 for every 100,000 live births. In 2015, the community in Badakshan had a particular problem when they sought the help of Mahboba's Promise. A river cut the village off from access to a health clinic. Women in labour were being pulled across the river on a tyre, before undertaking an arduous journey on unmade roads to the nearest clinic.

Mahboba negotiated a A\$40,000 donation with the Australian Embassy in Kabul in 2016 and the local community provided the land. Together with further donations from our Australian supporters, the local community and Mahboba's Promise built a new maternal health clinic which has become the lifeline

for whole communities. After careful deliberation, in 2017 Mahboba's Promise presented the community and the International Organisation for Migration with the responsibility of operating the clinic.

In the intervening years, Mahboba's Promise has remained actively involved with the clinic, training nurses, building a well to ensure fresh water and contributing to the maintenance of the buildings.

Five years later, we are now proud to report that the Badakhshan Maternal Health Clinic continues to save the lives of mothers and newborn babies. Despite the tragic figures for other parts of Afghanistan, our clinic has not lost a single mother since its inception in 2017. And the clinic has also now become the local vaccination centre.

At Mahboba's Promise, we strongly believe in this collaborative approach to development. Communities are best placed to recognise their problems and be at the centre of creating the solutions. Mahboba's Promise supports this by providing funding and connecting other technical experts, while having a deep understanding of the context of working in Afghanistan. The success of our Badakhshan Maternal Health clinic is a shining example of this.



Mahfouz and Safuraga

Mahfouz is a young graduate from Mahboba's Promise Kabul Hope House. With the support of funding provided by Mahboba's Promise, Mahfouz undertook and completed a law degree in Kabul. He has now returned to Mahboba's Promise to support its growing social enterprise in Kabul, the Kabul Confectionary Factory. During his time as a young orphan in the care of the Kabul Hope House, Mahfouz consistently demonstrated talent as a cook and as a leader. He is now one of the most talented chefs at the factory, and he takes pride in cooking high quality cakes and other sweets. In his personal life, Mahfouz and his wife have started a family. Through the sustainable work provided by Mahboba's Promise's successful social enterprise, the Kabul confectionary factory, Mahfouz is able to use his talents to support his young family.

Safuraga spent his childhood and young adult life in Mahboba's Promise Kabul Hope House. He worked hard in his schooling supported by the hope house staff. Throughout his studies, he consistently demonstrated his skills in business and management. Now as an adult, Safuraga is giving back to the Hope House as a manager at Mahboba's Promise Kabul confectionary factory. Together with his fellow Hope House graduates, Safuraga helps to grow this incredible social enterprise, and help to create sustainable and self-sufficient work for his Hope House brothers.

Mahfouz and Safuraga are only two of the many success stories to come out of Mahboba's Promise Hope Houses. Their work to advance the incredibly successful social enterprise that is the Kabul confectionary factory is testament to their skills as craftsman, businessmen and leaders. Together, these hard-working young men are helping to create a sustainable work and learning environment for the next generation of Hope House graduates, as well as members of the local community. The skills these boys have developed during their time at the Kabul Hope House will not only help them in their future careers, but will allow them to foster life-long skills in their colleagues and help the new generation to develop skills which will help them long after they finish working with Mahboba's Promise and its associated programs.



Photo: Mina



Photo: Mahfouz and Safuraga

OUR FAMILY

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Acknowledgements

Hundreds of people across Australia and from around the world have supported the work of Mahboba's Promise during this financial year. Given the magnitude of the crisis which faced Afghanistan during this period, we would like to make some special mentions of people who have worked beyond anything we could have expected, to bring about the best possible outcomes for as many of our staff, families, vulnerable children and widows.

Sarah Dale, the Refugee Advocacy and Casework Service (RACS) Centre Director and Principal Solicitor, worked with Sourosh and our team around the clock to facilitate the evacuation of at-risk staff and orphans. Michael Morgan worked closely with Sourosh providing him critical advice and support with Government relations. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to this historic effort. Through your work, more than a hundred individuals have found safe refuge in Australia.



Photo: Sarah Dale, RACS Centre Director and Principal Solicitor

We would like to thank Elizabeth Broderick for lending her voice to advocate for our work, our evacuation efforts and for the people of Afghanistan on the international stage. Her continued support means the world to Mahboba's Promise.

Thanks too, to our Marketing Manager at the time, Alex Alexander, former head of Religion and Ethics at ABC Jane Jeffes, and Amy Lamoin from Vu Consulting. This incredible team, alongside Sourosh, led our response in the aftermath of the crisis,

adapting rapidly and sacrificing day and night towards amplifying our cause. Their efforts saw Mahboba's Promise's profile expand significantly, with our humanitarian and evacuation work being featured as a front-page story on the Daily Telegraph alongside every other major Australian media outlets.

No amount of thanks can express our gratitude for our staff in Afghanistan, who have shown exceptional courage in carrying out our humanitarian mission. On the 15th August, our staff were on location at a camp of an estimated 7,000 internally displaced people. We had been servicing the camp jointly with another organisation, but our staff arrived on site and found themselves alone that day. The team coordinated an effort beyond anything they have been faced with before, supporting emergency shelter, food and medicine for the entire camp. We did not abandon these people, who would otherwise have faced extreme deprivation. Our staff continued to service the camp and assisted in the repatriation of displaced residents back to their homes.

For more than twenty years, our work has been primarily funded by individual donations from the Australian public. Our operations in Australia are bolstered by a growing team of volunteers from our local community. Your support has changed the lives of tens of thousands and continues to do so. We are forever grateful for your shared commitment to Afghanistan's vulnerable women, children, and refugees.



Photo: Elizabeth Broderick, Independent Expert (UN Special Rapporteur), UN Human Rights Council

YOUR COMMITMENT HAS ENABLED US TO CONTINUE BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN AND AUSTRALIA.

Thank you.





Supporters



THE
KING'S
SCHOOL



PROUDLY
NOURISHED
BY OZHARVEST

The King's School community and King's Women's Network

Mahboba and her family have been so delighted by the support of The King's School community and King's Women's Network, together with Chartwells this year. Recognising the difficulties that people newly arrived from Afghanistan face, members of The King's School community hosted a wonderful Welcome Party, with a number of King's Year 11 students organising a very exciting and competitive game of cricket.

King's Women's Network have worked tirelessly providing practical support and social activities to our new families and children, and most importantly building wonderful friendships. Together with Chartwells Catering, The King's School and King's Women's Network have kindly been supplying many of our newly arrived friends with culturally appropriate catering, when surplus to requirements meals were available. One thousand thank yous to The King's School community, King's Women's Network and Chartwells.

OzHarvest

OzHarvest has continued to work with Mahboba's Promise in our mission to support vulnerable women and children from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Sydney. Throughout the year, OzHarvest has delivered weekly nutritious meals and fresh groceries, which we give to families and our newly arrived friends from Afghanistan. These deliveries are a lifeline for members of the community and their families. In particular, OzHarvest deliveries have helped our founder Mahboba Rawi and her sister Zargona Rawi feed ten recently resettled refugee children, helping create nutritious meals to fuel the kids as they continue with their school studies. Mahboba's Promise would like to thank the OzHarvest team sincerely for their invaluable food distribution efforts.



*Bakers
Delight*

Bakers Delight

We would love to acknowledge our friends at Bakers Delight Artarmon and franchisee Mohit Gosain for the wonderful supplies of fresh and delicious bread to our new friends from Afghanistan. When people arrive

on humanitarian visas, they typically come with next to nothing and so every dollar is vital. In recognition of this, the team at Bakers Delight Artarmon have so willingly provided bread for each of our new friends for the last 6 months. So generous and so much appreciated.

Introducing Some Of Our Management Committee



Mahboba Rawi OAM, Founder and Director

After fleeing Afghanistan in 1984 and spending the next two years in a Pakistani refugee camp, Mahboba Rawi witnessed first-hand 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.



Khurshida Ajam, President

Khurshida has over 20 years of experience in commercial and consulting roles in sales, marketing and medical education, working with a number of blue-chip companies. Khurshida holds a Bachelor of Psychology and a Master of Commerce from the University of New South Wales [UNSW], is member of American Society of Training and Development and has a passion for Women in Leadership.



Sourosh (Nawid) Cina, Vice President

Nawid Cina is a human rights lawyer with a demonstrated capacity to affect grassroots and institutional change on humanitarian issues. Nawid completed his Bachelor of Laws & International Studies from the University of Technology Sydney and undertook his legal training at the Refugee Advice & Casework Service. Nawid has worked as a Program Associate at the Champions of Change Coalition, where he contributed towards institutional gender equality reform in the private sector. Prior to this, Nawid was the General Manager of Mahboba's Promise, where he was responsible for operational leadership & the design of major humanitarian relief programs. Following the Afghanistan crisis, Nawid returned to Mahboba's Promise to lead an unprecedented evacuation of at-risk orphans, widows

and staff. Nawid was awarded the Australian Human Right Medal in 2022 for his work. Nawid is also the co-founder of 'Future Leaders for Gender Equality', a student leadership program that seeks to catalyse student action and reform on issues around gender equality and respectful relationships.



Shehana Talib, Secretary

Currently a leader in a superannuation and insurance department, Shehana studied information technology in programming and has 8 years of experience in super and legal. Shehana is passionate about equality and strong advocate for women's rights.



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



Penny Gerstle, Ordinary Member

Penny has 30 year's experience working in the human rights sector, with particular interest in refugee and asylum seeker advocacy, disability advocacy, maternal health projects and human rights policy. She holds a master degree in International Law [USyd], master degree in Development and Global Health Studies [USyd] and a master degree in Japanese Studies [USyd], as well as studies in Migration law from UNSW.



Prabha Nandagopal, Ordinary Member

Prabha is a human rights and discrimination lawyer with over 18 years of broad experience across Government, NGOs, United Nations and private legal practice. Prabha has significant experience leading high profile inquiries and human rights investigations. For twelve years Prabha held various senior positions at the Australian Human Rights Commission including Director of Human Rights Law and Policy and Director of Business and Human Rights. In 2021, she was the Director of Legal for the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces. In 2020, she was a senior legal advisor to the Respect@ Work National Inquiry. In 2014, she led the landmark National Inquiry into Children in Detention. Prior to the Australian Human Rights Commission, she was a lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre.

Staff & Volunteers



Photo: Tole Roebig



Photo: Shabina Ajam

Tole Roebig, Grants Officer & Volunteer

Tole has been an invaluable volunteer at Mahboba's Promise since May. He serves as a grant officer, researching and applying for grants and non-grant opportunities to secure funding to support vulnerable women and children in Afghanistan. Tole approaches his tasks with dedication and enthusiasm and takes great pleasure in reading updates of Mahboba's Promise projects and seeing photos of the work being done in Afghanistan. His favourite part of volunteering is the collaboration with staff. He loves meeting new people through his work with Mahboba's Promise. Through his hard work and commitment, Tole continues to make a positive contribution to improving the lives of those who need it most.

Shabina Ajam, Finance Assistant

Shabina has been part of the Mahboba's Promise team for three and a half years, demonstrating her commitment and passion to helping widows and orphans. She has been a supporter of Mahboba's Promise for 20 years as a sponsor and invaluable team member. Shabina's role is to help with daily financial activities, carry out administrative tasks, and support teams. Her enthusiasm for connecting with volunteers from diverse backgrounds is highly commendable, and she exhibits excellence in helping newly arrived refugees settle into their lives here in Australia.



OUR COMPLIANCE

Mahboba's Promise Inc is registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC), and ensures it remains compliant with the ACNC Act 2012. Financial records are kept of our transactions and financial position to ensure transparency and compliance with any audit if required. Mahboba's Promise submits reports to the ACNC every year, and ensures it complies with the ACNC's governance standards.

Mahboba's Promise holds a license to fundraise under section 13A of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 in all Australian states and the organisation ensures it remains compliant with all its reporting requirements under the act.

Mahboba's Promise currently holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status issued by the Australian Tax Office, and complies with the required financial reporting as dictated by the department.

Mahboba's Promise is a member of The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and adheres to the ACFID Code of Conduct. Mahboba's Promise has established controls designed to safeguard its assets and to ensure the integrity of its activities and reports. The organisation is committed to ensuring that all its activities are conducted legally, ethically, and to a high standard as required by ACFID Code of Conduct. 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.

Mahboba's Promise remains dedicated working to the highest standard and takes all complaints relating to our staff, donations, development work or stakeholders very seriously. In addition to our commitments under the ACFID Code, Mahboba's Promise is also equipped to handle complaints

internally. Mahboba's Promise complaints policy can be found on our website at <https://mahbobaspromise.org/afghanistan/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/POL0027-Complaint-Resolution-Policy-1.pdf>.

Contact us

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ACFID
MEMBER



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