



Afghans Empowered

# Annual Report

2023

Drop by drop, the river is formed



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thank you

Dear community,

**Drop by drop, the river is formed.** Afghans Empowered thanks you for your support and dedication to our mission. We believe in the power of a grassroots approach to solving issues that affect our community members around the world. As a youth-led organization, we are inspired by the resilience and passion of our peers, and are inspired to dream of a better future for our fellow Afghans. Whether you were born in Afghanistan, or outside the homeland, we believe each and every one of our community member can be an effective stakeholder to enact positive change in our local, and international communities.

Yours Sincerely,

*Mursel Sabir*

Founder and Executive Director

# Overview

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Afghans Empowered's projects continue to focus on key areas:

- direct community services for Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Greece
- resource navigation and support for Afghan asylum seekers in Mexico and San Diego, CA, USA
- engagement with Afghan diaspora and local communities in cross-cultural dialogue and engagement
- advocating for human rights, refugee rights, and women's rights



# Impact At A Glance

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In 2023 we:

- provided education services for over 120 students and members of the community
- raised over \$7500USD in food security aid and provided 6,500 iftar meals for refugees in Malakasa Camp
- housed 22 at-risk Afghan migrants in our safe shelter
- documented over 200 cases of illegal pushbacks in the Mediterranean
- collaborated with international stakeholders regarding the conditions of Afghans in exile, and Afghanistan



# Greece

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Afghans Empowered's projects continue to focus on key areas:

- Education services for English and Greek language, and digital literacy
- health education classes in gender-safe spaces
- economic empowerment, and job assistance
- culturally-competent interpretative services for patients seeking medical care
- engagement with local NGOs, Greek officials and municipalities, and international organizations to promote the rights and interests of Afghan-migrants in Greece
- participate in protest and engagements in response to the erosion of human rights and women's rights in Afghanistan



# Greece

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Our impact in Greece:

- 60 students participated in our English and Greek language, and digital literacy classes
- 60 students participated in our health education classes
- 1000+ grocery kits distributed to poor refugees in Central Athens
- 22 vulnerable Afghans were provided months of free housing in our safe shelter
- 80 Afghans connected with jobs and provided job readiness training
- 24 refugees accompanied by our interpreters to their medical appointments
- 50+ health lessons provided for the community
- oversaw the facilitation of 6 funerals in accordance with Islamic practices
- resolved 10 cases of missing persons, providing closure to concerned relatives

# Greece

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# Ramadan

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Our 2023 Ramadan iftar campaign provided delicious Halal and culturally-appropriate meals for fasting refugees in Malakasa Camp.

In total we provided:

- \$4,531 in food aid
- \$1,500 in direct donation of food pantry and household items
- 6,500 meals for fasting refugees



# Ramadan

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# US/Mexico Border

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Afghans Empowered provided critical linguistic and resource navigation support for over 50 Afghan-nationals seeking asylum in the United States.

We provided a family of 13 Afghans in Mexicali, Mexico with over \$800 in direct aid to support their medical and humanitarian needs.

Our team volunteered at street release sites in San Diego County, CA, USA to welcome asylum seekers, and provide critical resource navigation. Our team also dropped off essential aid for asylum seekers at open-air detention sites in Jacumba, California.



# Advocacy

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Afghans Empowered is committed to advocating for human rights, migrant rights, and women's rights on behalf of our impacted community members.

In this space, we:

- held engagements with organizations such as UNHCR and Solidarity Now to advocate for higher standards of integration and to protect the dignity of refugees and asylum seekers
- Attended forums at the Multicultural Library in Athens to discuss issues affecting our Afghan community.
- Organized a round-table discussion in a quest for humanitarian solutions for refugees and asylum seekers and women's rights in Afghanistan
- called for the US government to respond to our community's request for transparency regarding the status of Afghan-nationals stuck in relocation limbos in countries such as the UAE and Kosovo.
- demonstrated against the oppression of minority groups in Afghanistan and a recognition of the Hazara Genocide

# Advocacy



# Narrative Building

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We believe our community's stories are critical for our work. Through social media, our **"Afghans of Athens"** story series shares the stories of incredible community members whose talents, journeys, and dreams are shared with our network of supporters and followers.



These stories help support our mission to promote and engage our community in building positive narratives that are authentic, educational, and inspiring.

We refuse to let displacement define our community members. We seek to highlight their journeys and personal stories to promote dialogue between Afghan-diaspora communities, and advocate for policy changes that reflect the needs of impacted community members.



# Events

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## Refugee Week Greece

We proudly sponsored and hosted an event and discussion for anthropologist and author Farida Ahmadi during Refugee Week in Athens with a panel of renowned doctors, lawyers and social anthropologists, to bring awareness to the need for humanitarian solutions that protect human rights and womens' rights.



## Cultural Festival in Athens

We co-hosted a cultural festival with other civil society organizations to present the beauties and traditions of Afghan culture to the Greek community. Our staff provided activities, performances, and displayed artwork and cultural attire, with the goal to promote integration of our community and to promote cross-cultural dialogue.



# Media Appearances

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## Highlights

A PLEA FOR AID FOR  
AFGHANS



THIS IS HOW MUSLIMS  
AROUND THE WORLD  
CELEBRATED RAMADAN IN  
2023



THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION  
IS KEEPING THOUSANDS  
OF AFGHANS IN LIMBO  
ABROAD



# Our Partners

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At Afghans Empowered, we uphold the belief that our work must take shape through our mission to conduct a holistic bottom-up approach that prioritizes the voices of local community leaders and impacted community members. We thank our incredible partners for their cooperation, leadership, and engagement. Without them, none of this work would be possible.

