



Voices Unveiled

2025 IMPACT REPORT



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A Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends,

I remember the January morning in 2023 when I logged in to teach my **very first online self-empowerment class to Afghan women**. For their safety, the students were off camera, so I could only hear their voices—curious, bright, trembling with hope. I had no idea quite what to expect -or how exactly I could prepare for this moment.

When I heard them speak, I knew immediately: **this was the beginning of something bigger than any of us could imagine**. From that night on, the mission became clear: to help Afghan women and girls **learn, grow, and dream**, even while the world tried to silence them. **From that first exchange, I knew there was no turning back.**

2025 was a year of intensified urgency. As the withdrawal of U.S. aid deepened humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and globally, the Taliban increased restrictions on women and girls already entering their third year of exclusion from secondary and higher education, employment, and public life. New measures—including mandates to cover one eye in public, the criminalization of women’s voices, and a ban on women studying nursing and midwifery enforced throughout 2025—dismantled remaining pathways to all forms of healthcare, and survival, exacerbating risks to childbirth and life in general in a system where it is illegal for women to receive treatment from male practitioners.

These intersecting dynamics of gender apartheid and economic collapse drove families toward survival strategies that fueled a rise in child and forced marriage, while later a nationwide internet blackout further severed access to education, communication, and safety networks, leaving women and girls increasingly isolated and endangered.

In the midst of all this, 2025 was a challenging year for nonprofits everywhere. Across the U.S., many organizations faced rising demand, shrinking resources, and financial uncertainty. Some were forced to cut programs, reduce staff, or even close their doors.

Our organization’s future was also hanging in the balance, and yet, here we are—**Voices Unveiled is still standing, still growing, and still giving Afghan women and girls the chance to thrive. Thanks to you.**

Our community came together, and the results for a grassroots effort like ours were extraordinary:

- **60+ full scholarships**—each one a lifeline that allowed girls to keep learning and believing in their future.
- **40+ monthly internet packages**—connected students to the outside world, opening doors to knowledge and opportunity.
- **13 elective courses**—from Creative Writing to computer programming, nurturing confidence, resilience, and independence.

- **\$25,500 in emergency aid**—delivered through 113 life-saving interventions to stabilize students and families in crisis.
- **150 MasterClass memberships**—opening doors to world-class online education.
- Several students safely relocated and enrolled in **accredited international schools**, preparing for futures once thought impossible.

None of this was inevitable. It happened because **you chose to stand with these women and girls** when it would have been easier to look away. Your belief in this mission, your generosity, and your encouragement made this possible. **Together, we proved that even in the hardest years, hope, courage, and education will prevail.**

Every voice, every story, every achievement reminds me that **resilience is contagious—and community can move mountains.**

One student, Tanaz age 30, shared during a class: *“For about two years now, when I attend Voices Unveiled’s classes..I feel whole and integrated again...like I’ve returned to myself.”*

As we look toward 2026, the challenges remain real. But so does our resolve, and so does *your impact*. We are still standing because you believed this work mattered—not just in theory, but in life and death moments for real people.

Our mission continues: to **expand access to our programs, deepen impact, and ensure every Afghan girl we reach knows her voice matters.** With your continued support, **we will keep standing, keep growing, and keep giving Afghan women and girls the chance to learn, lead, and dream.**

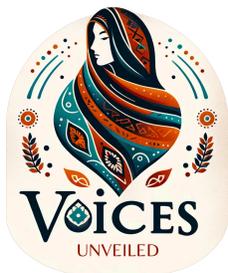
Thank you for being part of this journey. **You are part of every student’s courage, every breakthrough, and every dream realized.**

With deep gratitude,

Cara

Cara Cruickshank

Founder, Executive Director



Empowering and Educating Women in Afghanistan

voicesunveiled.org

Voices Unveiled – Organizational Overview

Mission Statement

To empower Afghan women and girls through education, self-expression, and leadership opportunities, ensuring that even under extreme restrictions, their voices, dreams, and potential are never silenced.

“You remind us that our voices matter, our dreams are valid. Because of you, many girls are braver, stronger and more hopeful about tomorrow. We are proud to be part of Voices Unveiled.”
-Rasa, age 20, Afghanistan

Who We Serve & How

- **Who:** Afghan women and girls living under Taliban restrictions, including refugees and those at risk of losing access to education.
 - **How:**
 - Online classes in self-empowerment, literacy, and vocational skills
 - Scholarships and internet support to ensure access to learning
 - Emergency aid for students and their families
 - Global mentorship from volunteer instructors, including PhDs and university professors
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Long-Term Change We’re Working Toward

- Afghan women and girls have **equal access to education, knowledge of their rights, maintain mental health, and the confidence to lead.**
 - Communities benefit from **educated women who teach others**, creating ripple effects that strengthen families, neighborhoods, and generations.
 - Over time, a **generation of empowered women** contributes to societal resilience, safety, and sustainable development in Afghanistan.
-

Our Activities → Outcomes → Impact

Activities	Outcomes	Impact
Online classes in empowerment, literacy, mental health, leadership, and vocational skills	Students gain knowledge, confidence, and personal safety skills	Women lead, teach, and mentor others; communities become stronger

Scholarships & internet packages	Students remain enrolled and connected despite bans	Continuous learning empowers girls even under extreme restrictions
Emergency aid support	Families stabilized; immediate crises averted	Education continues uninterrupted; girls' futures protected
Global mentorship & volunteer teaching	Students have role models & access to high-quality online learning	Students gain professional skills and global perspective, creating ripple effects for future generations

Education Programming

“My voice was buried long before I even knew I had one, until Voices Unveiled gave it back to me. We are not only responsible for our own future, but for the lives of the generations to come.”
— Leila, age 18

Education is the core of Voices Unveiled’s mission. In 2025, we supported **over 60 women and girls** through our Self Empowerment program, providing **free, safe, and culturally responsive access to learning.** Our **holistic curriculum nurtures the whole person**—mental wellbeing, academic and life skills, personal growth, and community—through women’s studies, creative and critical writing, health and nutrition, mindfulness, and human rights.

2025 Key Highlights

Access to Education

- **60+ scholarships awarded** to Afghan women and girls
- **40+ students supported with monthly internet access**, enabling consistent participation
- Participants aged **13–42**, from **both rural and urban communities**
- Learners reached across **8 provinces in Afghanistan**

Enriched Learning Opportunities

- **150 MasterClass online memberships secured**, expanding online learning
- **13 online interactive elective courses** delivered by international volunteer instructors
- **8 interactive student-led workshops** spanning academic and professional fields

Advanced Educational Pathways

- **2 students thriving on full scholarships** at U.S. high schools
- **1 student earned an accredited American high school diploma** through online study
- **1 high-achieving student awarded an accredited American middle school scholarship**
- Additional students have **secured overseas university scholarships**, opening pathways to safety, mobility, and higher education

Program Impact & Growth

This year marked a strategic shift toward deeper engagement and long-term impact, prioritizing quality and sustainability. Since launching in late January 2023, Voices Unveiled has supported more than **250 women and girls across Afghanistan**, awarding 175 scholarships in 2024–2025 alone. What began with a cohort of 30 urban participants has grown to reach **women and girls aged 13–42 across both rural and urban communities in over 8 provinces**, demonstrating both demand and adaptability.

These outcomes reflect our commitment to **unlocking education as a lifelong pathway to dignity, opportunity, and leadership**. We funded monthly internet packages to ensure students could consistently participate in safe online learning. Reliable connectivity remains essential for education in Afghanistan, where movement, communication, and access to infrastructure are heavily restricted and controlled.

“Honestly, this class feels like a second home to me, where I truly feel comfortable. Every session helps me reconnect with myself and brings a deep sense of peace. I feel my mind becoming clearer and my stress melting away.” -Vashti, age 28

2025 Transformative Impact at a Glance

This year, Voices Unveiled took a significant step forward by embedding new **impact measurement** into the Empowerment Course. Early findings reveal compelling evidence of **transformative outcomes** and position the program for continued growth, learning, and accountability.

“This wasn’t just a course for me, it was bigger than that. I learned self-love.” -Bitra, age 21

How Student Voices Shape Our Impact

At Voices Unveiled, impact is not measured solely by participation, it is **defined by how students experience our programs** and **how those experiences translate into growth, confidence, and opportunity**. In 2025, we strengthened our approach to impact monitoring by centering student feedback alongside attendance data and outcome tracking, ensuring our programs remain **responsive, relevant, and student-driven**.

How We Monitor Impact

We assess impact through a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures:

- **Student feedback:** Collected through surveys, reflection prompts, focus groups, and informal check-ins, giving students multiple ways to share their perspectives.
- **Attendance and engagement:** Monitored across sessions to identify patterns, barriers to participation, and moments of heightened engagement.
- **Outcomes:** Tracked through skill development, completion of program milestones, confidence indicators, and post-program pathways such as continued education, leadership roles, or creative pursuits.

Together, these data points allow us to understand not just *what* is happening, but *why*.

2025 Key Findings

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- **98%** showed overall **improvement in wellbeing**
- **81%** improved **mental health**
- **73%** reduction in reported **depression**

Empowerment & Personal Agency

- **100%** learned to confidently **say “NO,”** strengthening personal **safety and autonomy**
- **75%** improved **problem-solving skills**
- **75%** reported increased **comfort in their own bodies**

Leadership, Voice & Rights

- **88%** increased understanding of **women’s rights**
- **75%** strengthened **leadership skills**
- **66%** improved **public speaking and group communication**

Digital Literacy & Safety

- **100%** increased their proficiency in **internet safety**

Community Ripple Effects

- **88%** reported **positive changes within their families**
- **84%** are actively teaching others what they learned, **extending our impact**

Strong Engagement and Endorsement

Engagement levels further reinforce the program’s value. **34% of students returned for additional courses**, and **84% reported they would recommend the Empowerment Course** to other Afghan women and girls. Participants **consistently described the program as *transformative* and *essential* to their personal and professional growth.**

Digital Safety & Cybersecurity Education

Digital safety has long been a core pillar of Voices Unveiled’s program design. As online risks and surveillance continue to evolve, we have **strengthened and expanded our cybersecurity education**. At the beginning of each semester, students complete dedicated training in digital safety and cybersecurity, equipping them with up-to-date knowledge and practical tools to engage **confidently, responsibly, and safely in online learning environments**.

What We Learned This Year

In 2025, we learned that:

- **Consistency builds trust:** Strong attendance correlated with programs where students felt predictable structure alongside relational support.
 - **Flexibility increases access:** Students balancing school, work, or family responsibilities engaged more deeply when programs offered adaptable timelines and multiple modes of participation.
 - **Belonging drives outcomes:** Students who reported a strong sense of belonging were more likely to complete programs and articulate personal growth.
 - **Enhanced support boosts performance:** Improving student-to-moderator ratios allowed for more individualized attention, contributing to stronger engagement, deeper learning, and higher overall performance.
 - **Student voices strengthen relevance:** Regular feedback helped refine curriculum pacing, facilitation style, and content focus, ensuring programs addressed participants’ real needs and aspirations.
 - **Integrated digital safety enables confidence:** Embedding digital literacy and cybersecurity education equipped students with critical skills to navigate online spaces safely, supporting both personal empowerment and access to educational opportunities.
 - **Ripple effects amplify impact:** When participants shared their learning with family or peers, program outcomes extended beyond the classroom, creating measurable community-level benefits.
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How We Adapted Based on Feedback

In response to student feedback and evolving community needs, we:

- Expanded course topics according to students’ needs and interests
- Adjusted session formats to include **more small-group and peer-led activities**
- Incorporated additional time for **reflection and dialogue**
- Modified attendance expectations to **reduce barriers** without compromising **program integrity**
- Expanded facilitator training to further center **trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices**

These adaptations led to **improved attendance, stronger student engagement**, and clearer evidence of **personal and creative growth** across programs. By **continuously listening and responding**, Voices Unveiled ensures that impact is not static—it evolves with the students we serve.

Why this Important

These outcomes demonstrate that Voices Unveiled delivers **deep, measurable transformation**—not short-term participation. Women and girls gain the confidence, skills, and agency to **protect their wellbeing, advocate for their rights, and lead change within their families and communities**. They build **resilience, confidence, leadership, and practical skills** that translate into **long-term opportunity**. Your support delivers **measurable, life-changing results**, equipping women and girls not only to survive, but to lead and shape their futures.

Emergency & Holistic Support

Emergency funding at Voices Unveiled is reserved for moments when delay would result in irreversible harm. In 2025, these funds were **mobilized rapidly to protect life, prevent homelessness, secure legal status, and stabilize families** facing acute crises.

Support was directed toward **life-saving medical care, food security, housing stabilization, legal protection, and survival during climate extremes**. Interventions were intentionally short-term, targeted, and time-sensitive—designed to **prevent escalation** while preserving **dignity, safety, and the ability of students to continue their education**.

Emergency funding addressed:

- **Immediate food insecurity and access to clean drinking water**
- **Urgent medical care**, medications, and trauma support
- Essential funds for **safe childbirth and maternal and newborn care**
- **Housing and utilities** to prevent homelessness
- **Legal documentation and visa protection** during periods of displacement
- **Connectivity and essential supplies** during extreme heat and cold

These interventions did more than meet urgent needs. They created the **stability** required for **sustained education, protection, and long-term planning**—forming the foundation upon which all other support is built.

Emergency support is not a separate service—it is the foundation that **makes education, empowerment, and long-term impact possible**. Voices Unveiled responds rapidly in moments of crisis while maintaining **sustained, wrap-around support for Afghan students** at greatest risk. Every dollar invested directly **protects lives, stabilizes families, and opens pathways to safety and dignity**.

Immediate Crisis Response

- **\$25,500 in direct aid distributed**, ensuring access to essential food, safe housing, and urgent healthcare
- **113 emergency interventions delivered in 2025**, providing rapid, life-sustaining support in high-risk and time-critical situations
- **17 families supported with urgent emergency assistance**, addressing critical needs during periods of crisis and displacement

Sustained Support for Those at Greatest Risk

- **10 refugee students and their families received ongoing monthly support**, serving as their **sole financial lifeline** and ensuring stability, safety, and continuity of education
- **2 students supported through prolonged, complex, and high-risk circumstances**, requiring consistent protection and care

Pathways to Safety and Long-Term Protection

- **2 students and 6 family members safely relocated to France**, moving from immediate danger to long-term security
- **4 French asylum sponsors secured** for Afghan women, creating legal and viable pathways to resettlement and protection

Emergency support extended far beyond immediate relief. For many families, **Voices Unveiled served as their sole consistent source of financial support**, ensuring they remained **housed, protected**, and able to navigate displacement and complex legal processes.

We continue to provide **ongoing support** for multiple students and families as they progress through complex resettlement processes.

These interventions reflect **Voices Unveiled's holistic approach**: addressing urgent, life-threatening needs while safeguarding students' ability to **learn, remain connected, and move toward long-term safety and stability**. At Voices Unveiled, **emergency and holistic support is not separate from education—it is what makes education possible**.

"The Taliban banned education for us because they're scared of educated women. They know what an educated woman can do." — Rana, age 13, Kabul

Programming Expansion

In 2025, Voices Unveiled expanded its programming in direct response to **student interests** and the **growing strength of our international volunteer teaching community**. Elective offerings increased and new workshops and learning tools were launched in addition to our **core Self Empowerment course**, which meets **six hours per week for three months each round**. This foundational course centers on **mental health, critical thinking, women's health, human rights, and women's studies**, providing a consistent academic and personal grounding for all

participants. This expansion allowed students to pursue learning that supports **academic advancement, healing, creativity, and community building**—all within a **trauma-informed** and **culturally responsive** framework.

“Empowerment isn’t a luxury. For Afghan girls, it’s a lifeline.” — Jasmin, age 20

2025 Key Highlights

- **Curriculum expanded** — from 8 to 13 ongoing elective offerings
 - **International volunteer educator base grew**, enabling safe, high-quality delivery across **more subjects and disciplines**
 - **New student learning tools launched**, supporting academic access, digital safety, and global testing pathways
 - **MasterClass grant secured**, unlocking expanded online learning
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Skills for Global Education & Future Pathways

Alongside core empowerment classes, students accessed practical, future-oriented electives aligned with global education and employment pathways:

Functional & Academic Skills

- **English Language (Levels 1–3)** with interactive instruction
- **TOEFL and Duolingo English Test preparation**
- **Introductory Data Analytics**, using real-life examples
- **Computer Programming**, offering foundational coding skills supported by international mentors

These courses strengthen confidence, academic readiness, and access to international opportunities that are otherwise unavailable to Afghan women.

Humanities & Sciences

The expanded curriculum also deepens offerings across the humanities and sciences, fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and self-expression including:

- **Philosophy and Physics**
- **Medical Science**
- **Astronomy**
- **Bioscience & Sustainability**
- **The Life of Ideas: Mythology and Literature**

Across all science-based electives, students were introduced to scientific inquiry while learning about the often-overlooked contributions of women in science and medicine—expanding both knowledge and possibility.

Wellbeing as a Foundation for Learning

Recognizing the profound impact of isolation, trauma, and uncertainty on learning, Voices Unveiled embedded wellbeing-focused electives throughout the curriculum.

- **Meditation:** Supported emotional resilience and stress management.
- **Creative Writing:** Cultivated self-expression and mental clarity.
- **Art Therapy:** Helped develop coping strategies and emotional processing.

For students living under extreme restriction, these classes were not supplemental—they were **essential to sustaining learning and hope.**

Learning Resources Expanded

To support students beyond live classes, Voices Unveiled developed and distributed new self-guided learning tools, including:

- **Comprehensive Cybersecurity Guide**
- **Scholarship Eligibility Guide for Afghan Students**
- **Free English Learning Resource Library**
- **TOEFL, IELTS, and Duolingo Test Preparation Guide**

These resources extended impact beyond scheduled sessions and empowered students to continue learning independently and safely.

Leveraging Partnerships: MasterClass Grant

Through a competitive grant, Voices Unveiled secured **MasterClass access for up to 150 students**, providing exposure to world-renowned educators and professionals across disciplines.

This partnership also supports **eight student-led workshops**, shifting students from passive learners to **knowledge leaders within their community.**



Guest Speakers: Global Voices, Direct Connection

To complement academic learning, Voices Unveiled hosted values-aligned, **high-profile guest speakers** who connected directly with students, offering **inspiration, perspective, and global solidarity.**

Featured Speakers

- **Crystal Dawn** — Thought leader on women’s sovereignty and empowerment
- **Valarie Kaur** — Social justice leader, lawyer, filmmaker, and best-selling author
- **Qais Essar** — Acclaimed Afghan composer and cultural innovator
- **Tricia Hersey** — Founder of The Nap Ministry, artist, best selling author, theologian, and community organizer



“If you are looking for a meaningful organization to give to, to support the women in Afghanistan, this is the organization. They are directly working with the women who will rebuild their country. They will fight for justice, they will teach their daughters, they are planting the seeds for future generations.” — Valarie Kaur

“These women inspired me. I’m forever changed by them. Their strength. Their bravery. We need that in such an uncertain future. Wow. Just wow.” — Crystal Dawn

Curriculum expansion at Voices Unveiled is not about scale alone—it is about **responsiveness and dignity**. By **investing in diverse and trauma-informed learning**, donors enable Afghan women to **build skills, reclaim agency, and prepare for futures** that repression is actively trying to erase.

Community, Volunteers & Team Expansion

Scaling Impact Through Volunteer Expertise

Between 2024–2025, our volunteer base grew, enabling the **expansion of electives, workshops, and student support services**. Volunteers contributed across multiple domains:

- **50% growth** in volunteer base, from 20 to 30 active contributors
- **Intern base expanded and trained** — 9 interns (all program graduates) actively co-creating curriculum and supporting students

- **Staff expansion:** addition of a part-time **Communications Manager** and a part-time **Administrative Manager**, strengthening organizational capacity and donor engagement

This global network of volunteers, interns, and staff not only delivers high-quality programs but also **enhances the organization’s capacity**, allowing us to expand programming safely, consistently, and sustainably.

A Global Team Dedicated to Afghan Women’s Education

Voices Unveiled is powered by a small but **extraordinary global team**, an international community of volunteers, Afghan interns, and newly expanded administrative staff — all united by the mission to provide **free online education, mental health support, leadership development, and community building** for Afghan women and girls banned from public spaces.

Our international volunteers bring **world-class expertise across education, science, arts, technology, wellness, and social advocacy**. Many are PhDs, university professors, and leading professionals, contributing both instruction and mentorship. Their engagement allows us to deliver high-quality, diverse programming that meets students’ **academic, personal, and professional needs**.

“An organization that puts its heart into its goals. I am a witness to the incredible and positive impact it has on the lives of Afghan women. Thank you for giving them a voice and tools to improve their conditions.” — Coral Altamirano, Volunteer and Donor, Mexico City

“Incredible grassroots org doing outstanding frontline work for Afghanistan. I’m honoured to be a volunteer for them.” — Adam Towns, Volunteer Instructor and Donor, Melbourne

Interns: Leaders from Within

Our interns, all graduates of Voices Unveiled programs, play a **central role** in shaping curriculum, facilitating classes, and supporting organizational operations. Through these responsibilities, interns gain professional experience in **education, facilitation, leadership, collaboration, and program management**, strengthening both their confidence and pathways to further study and employment.

“This internship has been a journey of growth, learning, and empowerment. Being part of this organization has inspired me, strengthened my confidence, and shown me how much one person can make a difference.” — Ifra, Afghan Intern, age 20

Intern leadership ensures that our programs remain **grounded in lived experience, culturally relevant**, and responsive to the **needs and aspirations of our students**.

Partnerships: Strengthening Impact Through Collaboration

Our work is powered by deep, purpose-driven partnerships with like-minded organizations that share our vision for Afghan women's rights and education. In 2025:

- **Strengthened relationships with values-aligned organizations** including Every Woman is Worthy, Hear Her Stories, Women's Voices Now, Amala Education, and the Alekain Foundation—providing media support, mentorship, and outreach
- **Became a member of the [Alliance for Education of Women in Afghanistan](#) (AEWA)**, strengthening collective advocacy to defend Afghan women and girls' rights to education
- **Partnered with academic institutions** to secure online accredited scholarships for students, creating pathways to formal educational credentials and future opportunities
- **Secured media features** with platforms including US-based [Madness Café Podcast](#) and international magazine [ROOM: A Sketchbook for Analytic Action](#), amplifying Afghan women's voices to global audiences
- **Contributed to academic research**, with Voices Unveiled's fieldwork featured in a Master's dissertation,

These **strategic alliances are fundamental to our model**, helping ensure the **long-term sustainability** of our programs and advocacy efforts, allowing us to continue delivering impactful services and **building stronger, more resilient communities for Afghan women and girls**.

Why This Matters

Advocacy and partnerships at Voices Unveiled are grounded in the urgent need to make Afghan women's voices visible in a context where they are systematically silenced. Under Taliban restrictions, women and girls are excluded from education and public life, and their experiences are rarely seen or heard. Voices Unveiled works to **amplify the lived experiences of our students in Afghanistan** through ethical storytelling, media engagement, and public awareness, ensuring that the realities facing Afghan women are understood beyond headlines and statistics.

Alongside this work, we collaborate with purpose-driven organizations to extend the reach of these voices, **strengthen collective advocacy**, and contribute to broader efforts **defending Afghan women and girls' right to education, safety, and dignity**.

“For Afghan women, storytelling is survival. Voices Unveiled ensures their words are heard, and that the world cannot forget them.” -Cara Cruickshank, Founder of Voices Unveiled

Fundraising & Sustainability

Voices Unveiled is committed to creating **transformative, sustainable change** for Afghan women and girls. Our model integrates **global expertise, innovative programming, and ethical fundraising initiatives** to ensure that every dollar and volunteer hour contributes to tangible outcomes: **education, empowerment, and amplified voices** for those who have been systematically silenced. By leveraging strategic partnerships, digital engagement, and ethical fundraising, we are building a self-sustaining ecosystem where Afghan women can continue their journey toward **freedom, education, and opportunity**.

Growing Our Donor Community

In 2025, we saw significant growth in our donor base compared to 2024. These numbers highlight strong engagement and a growing community of support:

- Total unique **donors increased** from **55 to 135**, adding **80 new supporters** (145% increase)
- **Monthly donors grew from 5 to 15**, a gain of 10 committed contributors (200% increase)

Digital Presence & Engagement

Our expanded digital footprint drove fundraising growth:

- **Instagram presence expanded**, Reels reached **50,000+ accounts with 90,000+ views**
- **Facebook follower engagement increased 3,637%** (from 8 to 299)
- **Facebook content views grew 3,061%** (from 274 to 8,662)
- **Ongoing campaigns** across Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and other platforms engaged a **global audience**

Enhanced Digital Infrastructure:

- **Website improvements:** Better user experience, impact stories, donor and volunteer reviews, student sponsorship opportunities, and a dedicated page on our holistic and integrative education approach
- **[Voices Unveiled Blog](#) launch:** Giving Afghan women a platform to share their experiences in a context where their perspectives are systematically silenced
- **Expanded engagement opportunities:** Added more ways to get involved, including volunteering opportunities and our new store
- **Consistent storytelling:** Increased public visibility through storytelling across the website, email, and social media, centering student voices, impact, and program outcomes
- **Digital fundraising campaigns:** Delivered campaigns that lifted awareness and engagement beyond existing supporters

- **CRM implementation:** Personalized email campaigns, segmented communications, and donor engagement
- **Google My Business:** Established and maintained a listing to improve search presence, legitimacy, and trust through donor reviews
- **Nonprofit platform profiles:** Expanded Voices Unveiled's presence across donation and nonprofit directories
- **Improved donor management:** Enhanced organization and accuracy of donor and supporter records across GiveWP and Stripe
- **Strengthened website SEO:** Optimized search visibility to reach new supporters
- **Video endorsements:** High-profile activists and influencers amplifying our message
- **Community webinar (May 2025):** Featured three former students now safely living outside Afghanistan

Innovative Fundraising: Ethical Revenue Streams

Voices Unveiled Shop (Launched 2025)

Our **ethical merchandise store** features **artwork created by Afghan women**—often at great personal risk—as tools of resistance and empowerment. These women use their work as a form of **resistance against gender apartheid**. Each purchase:

- **Supports Afghan women artists** resisting gender apartheid through creative expression
- **Funds education, mental health, and leadership programs** that empower Afghan women and girls.
- Promotes **global awareness** of Afghan women's resilience and creativity, with each item serving as a powerful symbol of resistance and empowerment



[Explore the Voices Unveiled Shop](#)

Why It Matters

The ability to scale our impact and **sustain** our holistic, free educational programs is essential to the long-term success of Voices Unveiled. Through the **strategic partnerships** we've built, the **ethical fundraising initiatives** we've launched, and the **digital engagement** strategies we've employed, we are laying the groundwork for **lasting change**. These efforts will allow us to **deliver high-quality, free educational programs** to Afghan women and girls today, tomorrow, and for years to come. **Your support** ensures that we can **scale our impact**, maintain organizational resilience, and continue meeting the evolving needs of Afghan women and girls.

Financial Overview: Investing in Education

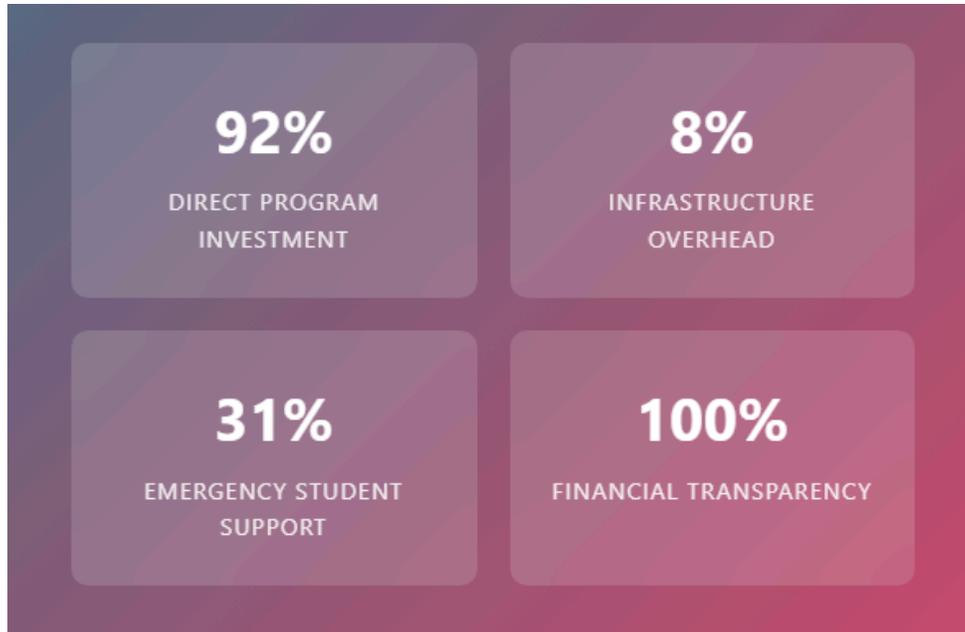
2025 Total Budget Investment

\$81,773.45

Every dollar in our 2025 budget served a clear purpose: **removing barriers, creating educational pathways, and building community for Afghan women and girls**. We directed **92%** of resources to trauma-informed programs, emergency student support, and essential connectivity, while maintaining lean operations at 8% for the infrastructure that enables this work.

Donor contributions translated directly into **tangible outcomes**—amplifying voices, strengthening agency, and creating pathways to wellbeing and self-determination for women and girls systematically excluded from education. By stewarding every investment with care and mission alignment, we have built a **resilient, sustainable organization** where each dollar, volunteer hour, and partnership expands opportunity and protects the right to be heard.

“When I joined Voices Unveiled, everything changed. The classes and discussions gave me a safe space to explore my voice and understand my thoughts more deeply. I finally found a place where my voice matters.” -Reza, age 13



Our 2025 Team Investment — 59% of Budget

\$48,320.93

Our team is the **backbone of our impact**. By investing in people who carry our work forward every day—often under extraordinary circumstances, we built **continuity and trust**. This investment supported **one full-time staff member, three part-time staff, and three paid interns** whose expertise, care, and consistency made our work possible. Together, they designed and delivered programs, supported students through crisis, coordinated volunteer efforts, built partnerships, maintained community engagement and ensured that **every initiative remains responsive to the realities Afghan women and girls face**, ensuring quality across all operations.

Throughout 2025, **our team contributed approximately 4,800 working hours**—averaging 100 hours per week of both **compensated and volunteer time**. Team members received modest wages covering a portion of their contributed hours, with **substantial volunteer time** extending their impact. This model enabled us to sustain operations while **maximizing resources for direct student support**.

By investing in people, we invest in sustainability. Our team combines experience, **global collaboration, and digital innovation to expand access to education**, strengthen leadership, and create **pathways toward long-term independence and opportunity for Afghan women and girls**.

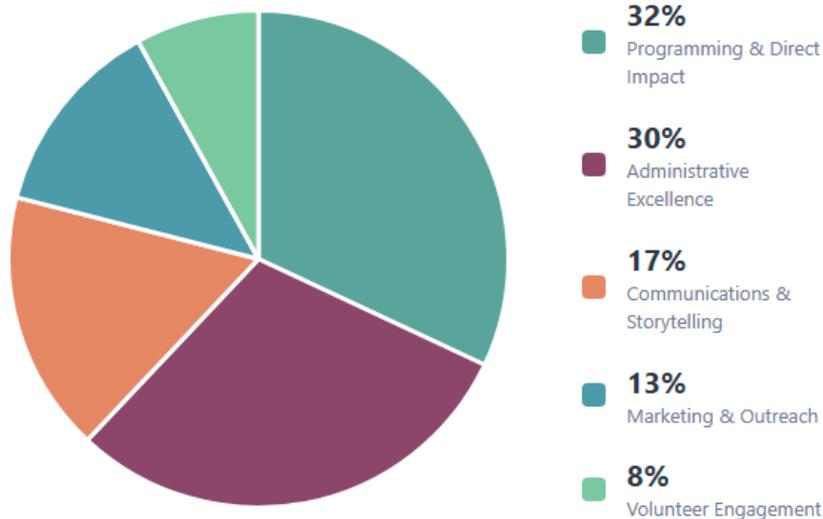
Strategic Time Allocation:

- Programming & Direct Impact: 32%

- Administrative & Operations: 30%
- Communications & Storytelling: 17%
- Marketing & Outreach: 13%
- Volunteer Engagement: 8%

Staff Time Allocation

Strategic Investment in Mission-Critical Activities



Impact Through Efficiency

Nearly **two-thirds** of staff time (62%) was **devoted to programming and operational management**—ensuring every program dollar reaches its intended beneficiaries with **measurable results**. Our remaining capacity strengthened external engagement, building a **growing community of supporters, volunteers, and advocates** who amplify our mission.

A Foundation of Heart-Centered Service

Every team member is carefully selected and trained in **cultural sensitivity, trauma-informed care, and heart-centered engagement**. Our staff and interns build **trusting relationships grounded in ethical practice** and deep respect for the lived experiences of Afghan women and girls.

This intentional approach shapes **every aspect of our work**: how we respond to student needs with cultural humility, how we design and facilitate programming with trauma awareness, how we support volunteers and make organizational decisions collaboratively through a horizontal team model, and how we maintain **rigorous quality control across all project areas**. Our commitment to ethical standards ensures that **every interaction honors student dignity**,

protects confidentiality, and centers the voices and agency of the women and girls we serve.

With this foundation, Afghan women and girls not only gain immediate educational access and critical support, but also the skills, confidence, and agency to become **architects of their own futures and leaders in their communities**. This is the power of investing in people: carefully selected team members, thoroughly prepared for this work, **creating sustainable change**.

The ripple effects of this approach are profound. When students become part of a supportive community that affirms their **worth and potential**, this sense of **belonging** transforms how they see themselves and their futures. They move from isolation to connection, from uncertainty to confidence, knowing they are **valued members of a community that believes in them**.

“In a world that tries to silence the voices of Afghan girls, you have done the impossible: you have built a bridge. You have guarded our right to exist as intellectual and spiritual beings.”
-Arayah, age 18

Emergency Aid & Direct Student Support — 31% of Budget

\$25,500.00

Education cannot wait for stability—and this fund ensures it doesn’t have to. Emergency Aid provides **rapid, flexible support** when students face sudden crises such as medical emergencies, housing insecurity, and essential living expenses. These moments often determine whether a student continues her education or is forced to abandon it.

These interventions **preserve academic progress, protect mental wellbeing, and prevent temporary hardship from becoming permanent loss**. Every dollar provides immediate relief while safeguarding long-term educational and economic opportunity.

Impact: Timely financial support that **keeps students enrolled, protects academic momentum, and turns moments of crisis into pathways forward**. **No administrative fees are deducted from this fund**. Our team contributes significant time and dedication to ensure that every dollar directly supports students.

Operational Infrastructure — 8% of Budget

\$6,803.22

Behind every successful program is strong infrastructure. This investment supports the essential systems and tools that allow our team to operate with **professionalism, online security, and care**—while remaining intentionally lean.

From secure digital tools to program management platforms, these resources ensure that donor contributions are **managed responsibly** and that our work remains **scalable, accountable, and resilient** in complex operating environments. By keeping operations lean and strategic, we **maximize every contribution**.

Includes:

- Website hosting and domain services
- Program management and communication software
- Essential tools and materials
- Digital infrastructure and security

Internet Connectivity Packages — 1% of Budget

\$1,149.30

For the women and girls we serve, **internet access is the gateway** to participation, learning, and global connection. This investment provides **reliable connectivity** for students who would otherwise be excluded from online learning, research resources, mentorship, and peer networks.

In contexts of displacement and restriction, connectivity becomes a lifeline. These digital bridges allow students to attend classes, build skills, and **remain connected to opportunity** regardless of geography or circumstance. We remove digital barriers so students can **learn, connect, and thrive**—no matter where they are.

Why Donor Investment Matters

Supporting Voices Unveiled is an investment in **scalable, measurable, and sustainable change**:

- Your contribution directly **powers high-quality programs** that equip Afghan women with access to **education, leadership development, and professional skills** to break the cycle of oppression.
- Donations maintain a **global volunteer network**, composed of experts who bring **valuable skills and experience** to our mission, driving **local impact with global expertise**.

- Every dollar invested advances **ethical initiatives** that amplify Afghan women’s voices, protect rights, and provide **economic opportunities** in an environment where such opportunities are scarce.
 - By investing in Voices Unveiled, you join a **global movement transforming lives, sustaining programs that advance gender equity, and building lasting change** for Afghan women for generations to come.
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Our Supporters — Thank You

We are deeply grateful to our supporters, whose generosity throughout 2025 **made it possible for Afghan women and girls to continue learning**, access emergency support, find community, and remain connected to support networks during times of profound uncertainty.. Your support has **sustained education, protected dignity, and created pathways toward safety and hope**.

“Thank you for being here. The presence of some people is truly necessary. Your presence helps me feel supported and makes the burden of everything a little easier to carry.”
-Saha, age 25

Thanks to your contributions in 2025:

- Over **60 students** accessed **safe online learning**, digital literacy training, and life skills programs.
- Our donor community now spans **Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Brazil, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- An **anonymous grant** in early 2025 provided critical flexibility, helping us meet urgent student needs, sustain core operations and increase our programmatic capacity..

Whether you gave, shared our work, showed up to an event, or simply stayed connected with us this year, you helped ensure Afghan women and girls were not forgotten or silenced. **Thank you for standing with us**, believing in this work, and being part of a **global community committed to education, safety, and dignity**.

Stay Engaged in 2026

We invite you to continue learning, sharing, and supporting this work in the year ahead:

- **Join upcoming webinars** and community events.
- **Follow our students’ journeys** through our blog and social media, as they grow, lead, and inspire.

- **Share our mission** within your networks to amplify impact.

Your ongoing engagement strengthens this global community and ensures **Afghan women and girls** continue to have access to **learning, safety, and opportunity**.

“Because of people like you, I feel safe, seen, and able to learn.” — Dina, age 23

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2026

As we close out 2025 with gratitude for all we've accomplished together, we look toward 2026 with **renewed vision and expanded possibility**. Thanks to your support throughout 2025, **Afghan women and girls found their voices, built community, and accessed education against extraordinary odds**. The foundation we built together—**\$81,773.45** invested with precision and care—proved that **sustainable, ethical, trauma-informed programming creates transformative change**. Now, we're ready to **build on that success**.

Our 2026 Vision: \$105,000

This expansion will enable us to **launch new programs, serve more students, and build sustainable capacity**—all while maintaining the trauma-informed, culturally sensitive approach that defined our 2025 success.

How \$105,000 Expands What We Built in 2025

Strengthen Program Capacity: \$60,000 → 57% of budget Grow staff compensation to \$60,000, adding capacity to reduce the volunteer burden on our current team. This enables us to serve more students while preventing burnout and ensuring our trauma-informed, culturally sensitive approach remains sustainable.

Expand Emergency Student Support: \$35,000 → 33% of budget Increase our emergency aid fund from \$28,295 to \$35,000, ensuring more students can weather financial crises without sacrificing their education. This 24% increase will allow us to respond to more emergencies and provide larger support amounts when needed.

Strengthen Operational Infrastructure: \$4,500 → 4% of budget (*Modest increase from 2025's \$3,690*) A slight increase in operational investment supports the essential infrastructure—program management systems, cyber security, effective communications, and quality assurance tools—that enables our ethical, heart-centered approach to function at a higher scale.

Launch Fundraising & Marketing: \$3,500 → 3% of budget (*New budget line for 2026*) For the first time, we are investing in a dedicated fundraising and marketing budget to grow our donor community, amplify student stories with dignity and care, and build the sustainable funding base that will carry our mission into the future. This investment in outreach is designed to pay for itself many times over through expanded donor engagement.

Enhance Digital Access (\$2,000 → 2% of budget) Nearly double our internet connectivity support from \$1,149 to \$2,000, connecting more isolated learners to educational opportunity and the global knowledge networks that transform futures.

2026 Budget — \$105,000

Category	Amount	% of Budget
Staff & Intern Compensation	\$60,000	57.1%
Emergency Aid & Direct Student Support	\$35,000	33.3%
Operational Infrastructure	\$7,000	6.7%
Internet Connectivity	\$2,000	1.9%
Marketing & Fundraising	\$1,000	1.0%
Total	\$105,000	100%

Year Over Year Growth:

	2025 Actual	2026 Goal	Change
Total Budget	\$81,773	\$105,000	+28%
Staff & Interns	\$48,321	\$60,000	+24%
Emergency Aid	\$25,500	\$35,000	+37%
Operations	\$6,917	\$7,000	+1%
Marketing	—	\$1,000	New
Internet	\$1,036	\$2,000	+93%

Program Investment 92% 92% Maintained

New Strategic Partnerships for 2026

Your investment will enable collaborations that multiply impact:

Schools & NGOs Partner with accredited institutions to expand curriculum access, provide accredited learning pathways, and create degree completion opportunities for students whose education was interrupted.

Digital Advocacy Networks Collaborate with online influencers and educators to amplify Afghan women's voices, raise global awareness, and build solidarity movements that sustain long-term change.

Professional Mentorship Connect students with professionals in their fields of study, creating pathways from education to economic independence and leadership.

The Foundation We Built Together in 2025

Everything we envision for 2026 builds on **what you made possible in 2025**:

- ✓ A horizontal team model with training in cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed care
- ✓ Emergency aid that kept students enrolled during crisis
- ✓ Internet connectivity that bridged the digital divide
- ✓ A loving, supportive community where students moved from isolation to belonging
- ✓ Ethical practices that honored dignity and centered student voices

We built a self-sustaining ecosystem grounded in **trust, consistency, and heart-centered engagement**. With your continued support, we can extend this **proven model to serve more students, launch new programs, and deepen our impact**.

Your 2026 Investment Creates Tangible Outcomes

What Your Contribution Funds:

- \$50** provides a semester of **internet access for a student**
- \$100** delivers **emergency support** that keeps a student enrolled
- \$300** funds three months of comprehensive **education and mentoring**
- \$500** supports student's **ongoing education and emergency needs**

\$1,000+ builds sustainable capacity—**regional outreach, peer mentorship, volunteer and intern training**

Monthly giving provides the stable foundation for **long-term student commitments and program expansion**

Immediate Opportunity: Spring 2026 Campaign

Goal: Raise \$50,000 by March 15, 2026

As you read this report, our late winter campaign is already underway. We've secured \$14,600 and **\$20,000 in matching funds**—meaning **every dollar given before March 15 doubles in impact. We need to raise \$15,400 in new donations** to unlock the full match and reach our first milestone.

Your gift moves us from our 2025 foundation of \$81,773 to our **2026 vision of \$105,000**—creating sustainable pathways to **education, leadership, and freedom.**

Your matched gift will fuel:

- Scholarships for our Self Empowerment course
 - Continued mental health support
 - Expanded emergency aid for students in crisis
 - Expanded reach to remote provinces cut off from education
 - Launch more STEM and entrepreneurship education
 - Expand peer mentorship led by graduates
 - Internet connectivity for isolated learners
 - Strengthen impact measurement systems
-

Your Matched Gift Will Fuel

Give before March 15 — every dollar doubled



Self Empowerment Scholarships Mental Health Support Emergency Aid
Remote Province Outreach STEM & Entrepreneurship Peer Mentorship
Internet Connectivity Impact Measurement

In 2026, Afghan women and girls will expand their possibilities.

"We were born in a place where women are stripped of their humanity, living in silence. But you believe in us and that is a miracle. Today we still dare to dream, we can still quietly say, 'I exist', because of you." — Delbaz, age 23

Thank you for making 2025 possible. Join us in making 2026 even more transformative.

Together, we ensure that every Afghan girl we reach has the opportunity to **learn, grow, and lead**, even under the most difficult circumstances. By **investing in 2026**, you're **affirming the humanity, potential, and right to education of women and girls** who have been systematically silenced. You're building a future where **resilience, education, community, and hope thrive for generations to come.**

