



**Action for Welfare and Development of
Rural Environment Organization
(AWDREO)**

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Address: House #29, street#6, Karteh 3, Kabul, Afghanistan

Email: awdreo.ngo@gamil.com -director@awdreo.org

Phone: +93771881624 - +93772310355

Website: www.awdreo.org

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Acronym List

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
AWDREO	Action for Welfare and Development of Rural Environment Organization
AWN	Afghan Women Network
CBT	Cash-based Transfer
DFA	De-Facto Authority
EiE	Education in Emergency
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
GBV	Gender-based violence
HHs	Households
IDP	Internal Displaced Person
LWHO	Life with Hope Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MD	Doctor of Medicine
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
MoE	Ministry of Education
MOLSD	Ministry of Labor and Social Development
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCs	Psychologist Counsellors
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSS	Psychosocial Support
UCSS	Unconditional Seasonal Support Food and Cash
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Executive Summary

This annual report presents the AWDREO key achievements, activities carried out, challenges encountered, ways forward and acknowledgment from those involved with AWDREO through the year 2024. A financial overview has been added to address the transparency concern.

In 2024, the Action for Welfare and Development of Rural Environment Organization (AWDREO) continued its unwavering commitment to supporting Afghanistan's most vulnerable populations amid escalating challenges and a volatile operational landscape through focused economic empowerment, humanitarian response, agriculture and mental health initiatives across five province of Afghanistan including Kabul, Bamyan, Ghor, Logar, and Paktya.

In 2024, AWDREO has reached to over **106,000 individuals**, with a focus on improving food security, enhancing psychosocial support services, and promoting sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women and girls.

During the reporting year, AWDREO successfully carried out several significant projects. These include the Unconditional Seasonal Support – Food and Cash (UCSS) Project, funded by WFP, which provided food and cash assistance to 14,072 households—benefiting around 98,504 beneficiaries in Logar and Ghor provinces. AWDREO also extended its Psychosocial Support (PSS) Project in Paktiya Province, with funding from UN Women, offering mental health counseling to over 2,000 Afghan women and girls, and psychiatric medication to 350 individuals. Furthermore, in Bamyan's Dar-e-Foladi village, AWDREO piloted the Layer Chicken Project, trained 15 women and girls in poultry farming and microenterprise skills to improve household income and food security. Additionally, the Peer Learning Project, run in collaboration with the Life With Hope Organization (LWHO) and funded by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), focused on strengthening institutional capacity, particularly in financial management, HR management, Proposal Writing, Gender, Procurement and logistics.

Additionally, AWDREO has demonstrated resilience and adaptability, working closely with local authorities, community leaders, and partner organizations to navigate complex environments and maintain essential service delivery. The AWDREO sustained partnerships with WFP, UNDP, and UN Women, and initiated a new partnership with AWEC to expand its programming reach and expertise.

Moreover, to enhance operational effectiveness and compliance with national and international standards, AWDREO revised several internal policies in 2024, including its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Child Protection, Do No Harm, and Data Protection policies. Staff also participated in a series of training sessions conducted by WFP, UN Women, and AWEC on topics ranging from project management and financial reporting to data security and psychosocial care.

Despite these achievements, AWDREO faced serious operational hurdles. The political and regulatory shifts following the Taliban's return to power have created an increasingly constrained civic space. In particular, the December 2022 ban on women working with NGOs has significantly hindered AWDREO's ability to deliver inclusive services, especially in rural areas where cultural restrictions preclude male staff from engaging with women and girls. Combined with limitations on girls' education and increased bureaucratic oversight, these restrictions have led to reduced program reach and implementation delays.

AWDREO Plan for 2024

In alignment with its strategic objectives for 2024, AWDREO has outlined the following key priorities for the year:

- Expand its humanitarian programs to serve vulnerable communities in four to five provinces.
- Secure additional funding from a diverse portfolio of international donors to support the growth and long-term sustainability of its initiatives.
- Conduct a comprehensive review and update of organizational policies, including but not limited to those related to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Do No Harm, Data Protection, and Child Protection.
- Broaden project outreach to increase support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in targeted regions.
- Strengthen its network by establishing new partnerships and pursuing membership in relevant clusters and networks that align with AWDREO's mission.

The Executive Director Message

It is with great pride to present an overview of AWDREO's efforts and achievements throughout 2024, a year marked by significant challenges and remarkable resilience. Our unwavering dedication to reaching vulnerable and impoverished communities across Afghanistan has been critical in delivering lifesaving support and driving meaningful change during an exceptionally difficult period.

The progress outlined in this report is a direct result of the commitment, perseverance, and teamwork demonstrated by AWDREO's dedicated staff. Working in some of the most challenging operational environments, our teams remained steadfast on the frontlines, embodying the AWDREO's mission and core values with integrity and professionalism.

Throughout the year, AWDREO has continued to advocate for gender equity and the protection of human rights, despite increasing restrictions on women and female staff. We are deeply grateful to our donors, religious leaders, activists, and defenders of women's rights for their ongoing solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan. Their resilience and tireless pursuit of justice continue to inspire and strengthen our efforts.

Afghanistan's humanitarian and economic crisis remains severe, with millions facing hunger and poverty, and many forced into dire coping strategies. In this challenging context, AWDREO's partnerships with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Women have been invaluable. We extend our sincere gratitude for their consistent support in addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable.

As we reflect on 2024, we recognize the immense challenges yet remain encouraged by the collective impact achieved through collaboration and shared commitment. Looking ahead, AWDREO reaffirms its dedication to empowering rural communities, advancing gender equality, and promoting a just and inclusive society. Together with our partners, we are committed to creating lasting, positive change for the people of Afghanistan.

Warm regards,

Zahra Mohammadi

Executive Director, AWDREO

AWDREO profile and background

The Action for Welfare and Development of Rural Environment Organization (AWDREO) is a non-governmental, non-profit, and non-political organization founded in 2015 by a group of passionate young professionals dedicated to contributing to Afghanistan's development. AWDREO's mission is to engage in multi-sector programs across Economic Empowerment, Education, Women's Rights, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), and Humanitarian Response. In alignment with the Afghan government's efforts, AWDREO targets marginalized groups, including women, girls, youth, children, the illiterate, and the poor in rural communities, aiming to foster peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Since its inception, AWDREO has worked to mobilize and empower women and youth, equipping them with the skills, awareness, and confidence to participate actively in socio-economic and political arenas within their communities. Additionally, AWDREO supports community-based organizations in advocating for improved education, health services, WASH facilities, and agricultural practices. By connecting communities with development and humanitarian actors, AWDREO helps them address their basic needs and priorities more effectively.

AWDREO has successfully implemented various development and humanitarian projects across Afghanistan, focusing on sectors such as Economic Empowerment, GBV, Education, Women's Rights, MHPSS/Health, WASH, and Humanitarian Response. These initiatives have directly benefited vulnerable groups, including women, children, youth, IDPs, returnees, and farmers in rural communities. Over the years, AWDREO's interventions have improved livelihoods, educational access, and economic opportunities for over 500,000 of individuals in provinces such as Bamyan, Daikundi, Ghor, Logar, Paktiya, and Kabul. Through partnerships with local stakeholders and government entities, AWDREO continues to address the most pressing needs of marginalized communities, empowering them to build sustainable futures.

AWDREO's main office is located in Kabul, with provincial contact offices in Bamyan, Daikundi, Logar, Paktiya, and Ghor provinces. The organization is a registered member of key national networks and working groups, including Education in Emergencies (EiE), Protection, WASH, FSAC (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster), and AWN (Afghan Women's Network). AWDREO also maintains strong partnerships with key government ministries such as MRRD (Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development), MoE (Ministry of Education), MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock), MORR (Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations), and MOLSD (Ministry of Labor and Social Development).

AWDREO's staff and team members have an extensive history of working with vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized communities across Afghanistan. Through trust and reliability built within these communities, AWDREO has become a trusted partner. The organization's technical expertise and project management capabilities have fostered strong working relationships with government departments, earning the support and trust of both local societies and broader stakeholders.

Vision

An Afghanistan where every individual lives with dignity, enjoys fundamental rights, maintains good health, secures sustainable livelihoods, and possesses resilience against natural disasters.

Mission

AWDREO is a national NGO dedicated to empowering individuals and rural communities, focusing on women, girls, boys, and youth. The AWDREO's mission is to help these groups fully participate in society, influence their development, improve their living standards, assert their rights, and minimize the damage caused by natural disaster such as earthquakes, floods, avalanches, landslides, and droughts, through proactive measures.

Values

Responsiveness: AWDREO engages in respectful collaboration with our target groups, prioritizing their needs and legitimate demands while emphasizing local ownership and community empowerment.

Impartiality: AWDREO is committed to inclusivity and non-discrimination in our approach. We do not take sides in conflicts or support specific factions, ensuring that we serve the diverse interests of society impartially.

Equality: AWDREO advocates for equal opportunities and strive to ensure equitable access to resources for all individuals, particularly women, girls, boys, and people with disabilities, recognizing the importance of diversity in our efforts.

Social Justice: AWDREO is dedicated to fairness and equity in all our interactions. We affirm the rights of all individuals while acknowledging that gender, capabilities, and identities create unique needs and interests that must be addressed.

Quality: AWDREO is committed to achieving the highest standards in our work by fostering unity of purpose, strong teamwork, and a shared belief in our mission, thereby driving positive change for the communities we serve.

Integrity: AWDREO upholds our mission with honesty and transparency, cultivating a spirit of openness with our stakeholders. We are accountable for our actions and committed to ethical practices in all we do.

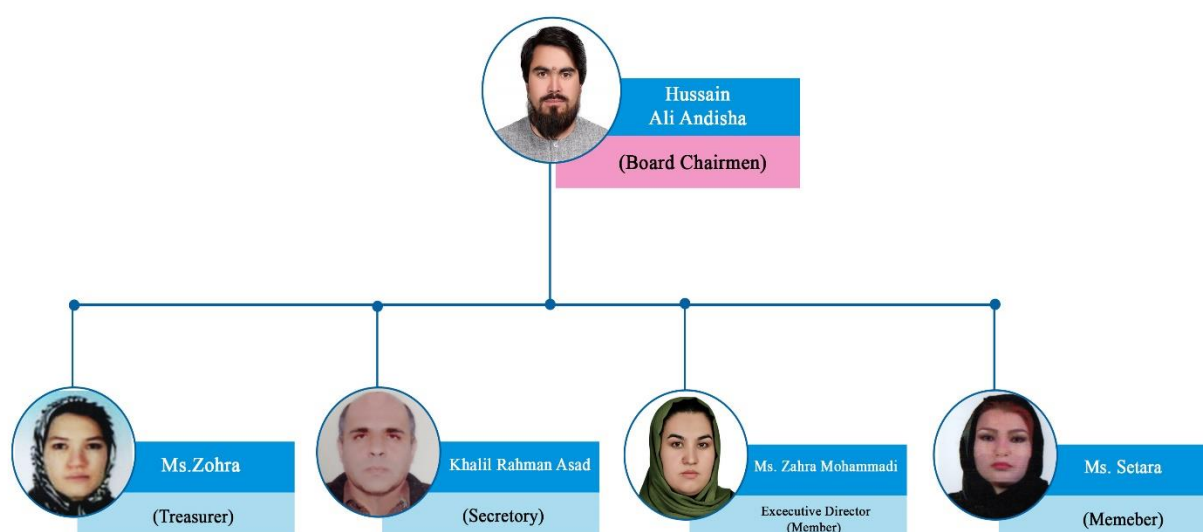
Cooperation: AWDREO promotes teamwork and collaboration among our staff and stakeholders to enhance participation and build a strong sense of ownership within the communities we work with.

Leadership: AWDREO strives to inspire and motivate, promoting leadership and capacity-building among our staff and within the communities we serve to foster sustainable development.

AWDREO Board of Directors members

The Board of Directors plays a key role in guiding AWDREO's strategic direction and operations. It reviews activity and financial reports from the Executive Committee, approves core organizational structures—such as departmental roles and terms of reference—and ensures departmental plans align with AWDREO's strategic objectives. The Board also oversees financial matters and authorizes the establishment of new field offices when needed.

In addition to strategic oversight, the Board advises the President and Executive Board to support sound decision-making and enhance performance. It monitors AWDREO's financial health to ensure fiscal responsibility, addresses staff concerns to foster a positive workplace culture, helps secure funding through external partnerships, and steers constitutional and governance reforms to uphold accountability and stay aligned with the organization's mission.



2024 Key Achievements

In 2024, AWDREO achieved key milestones that enhanced its position as an active and adaptable organization supporting humanitarian emergency response, agriculture, and economic empowerment in Afghanistan.

Implemented Projects

Unconditional Seasonal Support – Food & Cash Project

AWDREO implemented the Unconditional Seasonal Support – Food and Cash (UCSS) project in Logar and Ghor provinces, with funding from the World Food Programme (WFP). The project was executed in the Lal Wa Sar-e-Jangal district of Ghor and across seven districts in Logar: Poli-Alam, Khoshi, Baraki Barak, Charkh, Azra, Kharwar, and Mohammad Agha.

Project Title	Unconditional Seasonal Food and Cash Support (UCSS)
Donor	World Food Programme (WFP)
Implementing Partner	AWDREO
Project Duration	August 2024 – July 2025
Target Provinces	Logar, and Ghor
Project Objective	Provide unconditional seasonal food and cash support to the most vulnerable households

Project Results Summary

Province	Indicator	Targeted households	Reached Households	Reached Beneficiaries
Logar	# of households assisted	8,807	8,807 HHs	61,649
Ghor	# of households assisted	5,265	5,265 HHs	36,855
Total number of households reached		14,072	14,072 HHs	98,504

Peer Learning Project

The Peer Learning Project was implemented at the main office of the AWDREO. The primary objective of this initiative was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between AWDREO and the Life with Hope Organization (LWHO).

A total of 10 staff members participated in the project, including 3 representatives from LWHO (2 male and 1 female) and 6 from AWDREO (4 male and 2 female). The total budget allocated for the project was USD 10,000.

During the course of the Peer Learning Project, AWDREO and LWHO shared expertise in several key areas, including Financial Management, Procurement and Logistics, Human Resources Management, Proposal Writing, Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Project Title	Peer Learning Project
Donor	WPHF (Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund)
Implementing Partner	AWDREO
Project Duration	Feb 20, 2024 – September 15, 2024
Target Provinces	Kabul (Main Office)
Project Objective	To enhance institutional capacity through knowledge exchange between AWDREO and LWHO in key operational and management areas.

Project Results Summary

Province	Indicator	Targeted staff	Reached staff
Kabul	# of staff received trainings	9 staff	9 staff (3 female, 7 male)

Distribution of Layer Chicken Project

In an effort to promote sustainable livelihoods and empower women in rural areas, a Layer Chicken Project was successfully implemented in Dar-e-Foladi village. This initiative specifically targeted 15 local women and girls, aiming to improve their understanding of poultry farming and equip them with practical skills in managing layer chickens.

Each participant was provided with eight-layer chickens. As part of the project, the women received hands-on training in poultry care, feeding, coop management, and disease prevention. In addition to gaining technical knowledge, they were also introduced to basic business skills and connected to local markets, enabling them to sell eggs and other poultry products directly to consumers.

Project Title	Distribution of Layer Chicken Project
Donor	Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)
Implementing Partner	AWDREO
Project Duration	October 01, 2024 – Dec 30, 2024
Target Provinces	Bamian (Dara-e Foladi Village, Center of Bamian)
Project Objective	To empower women and girls by enhancing their knowledge of poultry management and connecting them to local markets to improve household income and food security.

Project Results Summary

Province	Indicator	Targeted households	Reached Households	Reached Beneficiaries
Bamyan	# of households assisted	15 HHs	15 HHs (15 female)	105

PSS Project

The Psychosocial Support (PSS) Project, funded by UN Women, was launched to promote the mental health and overall well-being of women and girls residing in Gardiz District, Paktya Province, Afghanistan.

Initially implemented from November 2, 2023, to November 2, 2024, the project was extended—due to the ongoing needs of the community—from November 7, 2024, to July 30, 2025.

Prior to the project amendment, psychosocial support services were provided to 866 women and girls. Following the amendment on November 7, 2024, the project expanded its scope to include prescription-based therapy, in addition to psychosocial support, to better address the needs of women and girls requiring prescription therapy.

Since its inception, the project has delivered psychological counseling services to 2,000 individuals facing a range of mental health challenges, such as trauma, stress, anxiety, and depression. These services have been administered by qualified psychologists and medical doctor (MD) with specialized expertise in mental health care.

Project Title	PSS Project
Donor	UN Women
Implementing Partner	AWDREO
Project Duration	November 7, 2024 – Jul 30, 2025
Target Provinces	Paktya (Gardiz district)
Project Objective	To enhance the mental health and overall well-being of women and girls in Gardiz District by providing comprehensive psychosocial support and prescription-based therapy through qualified professionals.

Project Results Summary

Province	Indicator	Targeted clients	Type of Services	Reached clients during reporting periods	Reached Beneficiaries
Paktya	# of clients received psychosocial counselling services	1,140 clients	Psychosocial counseling	2,000 clients (1,166 women, 834 girls)	14,000
Paktya	# of clients received prescription therapy services	100 clients	Prescription therapy	350 clients (200 women and 150 girls)	2,450

Partnerships

In 2024, AWDREO maintained its partnership with World Food Programme (WFP), United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Women, as in the previous year. Additionally, in 2024, AWDREO established a new partnership with the Afghan Women’s Educational Center (AWEC).

Capacity Building

In 2024, the AWDREO staff engaged in multiple capacity-building initiatives facilitated by WFP, UN Women, and the AWEC Organization. With the support of UN Women, 12 staff members participated in an eight-month training program organized by Social Development Direct, focusing on psychosocial counselling and wellbeing. Furthermore, 7 of the team members attended a series of training sessions led by the AWEC Organization, covering key areas such as project management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, human resources management, and proposal writing. Additionally,

WFP organized training sessions for the AWDREO staff on survey methodologies, data protection, and information security.

Additionally, AWDREO revised its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as well as its Child Protection, Do No Harm, and Data Protection policies, to ensure alignment with national and international standards and best practices.

Fundraising

AWDREO’s Program Department submitted more than 12 project proposals across various thematic areas, including agriculture, economic empowerment, humanitarian emergency response, and health. Despite these efforts, only two proposals was approved, primarily due to limited funding availability in 2024, which significantly hindered the ability to secure financial support.

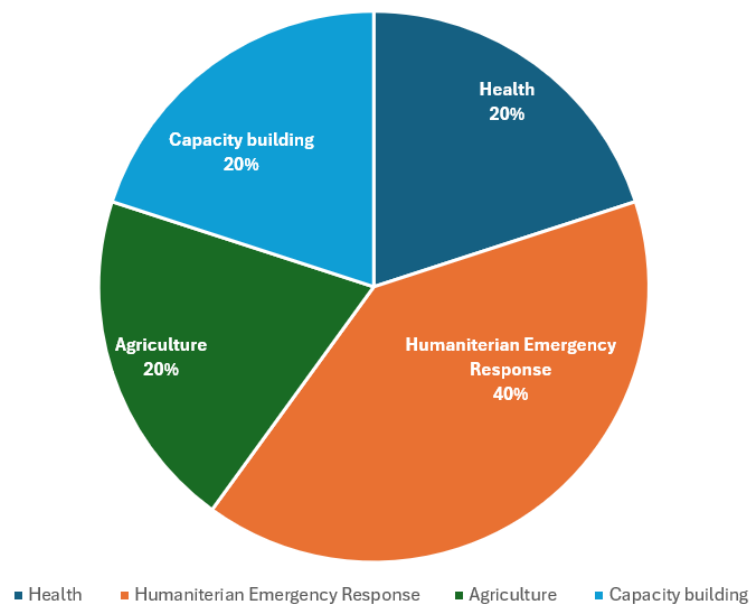


Figure 1 AWDREO-implemented projects categorized by thematic areas.

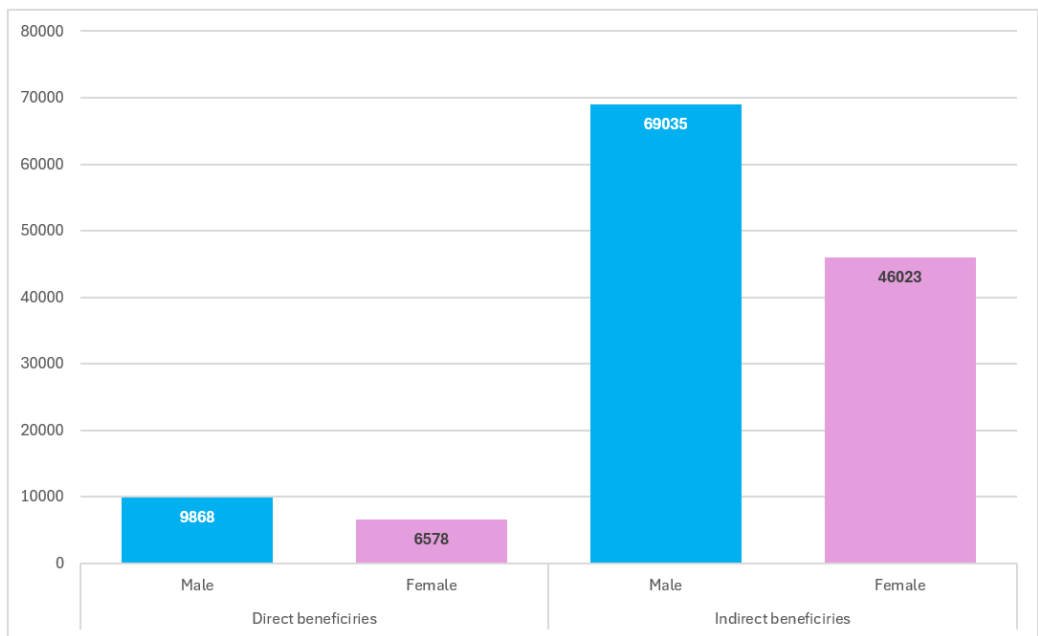


Figure 2 Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries of implemented Projects in 2023.

Financial Overview

Income Source	Amount (USD)	Amount (AFN)
World Food Programme	652,777 USD	47,000,000
UN Women	86,615 USD	6,236,294
WPHF	10,000 USD	720,000
AWEC	5,000	360,000
Total Income	754,392 USD	54,316,294 AFN

Challenges Faced

Since its establishment in 2015, AWDREO has operated across diverse sectors—such as agriculture, health, economic development, women’s empowerment, and emergency relief—impacting communities throughout Afghanistan. Its mission focuses on promoting sustainable development and supporting vulnerable populations. However, the return of the Taliban to power in August 2021 has posed significant challenges to the AWDREO’s operations.

The DFA restrictive decrees have drastically reshaped the environment for CSOs and NGOs. These measures have curtailed fundamental rights—especially those of women—and diminished the autonomy of NGOs. AWDREO has been deeply affected.

A particularly severe blow came in December 2022, when the de facto authorities (DFA) banned women from working with NGOs. This directive forced AWDREO to scale back numerous initiatives, especially in healthcare and psychosocial support, which depended heavily on female staff. In many conservative rural areas, where cultural norms prohibit male workers from engaging with women and girls, this ban has effectively cut off access to essential services. As a result, AWDREO’s capacity to implement inclusive, community-centered programs has been severely compromised.

The situation is further worsened by the ongoing ban on girls’ secondary and higher education, which threatens the long-term availability of skilled female professionals—a critical foundation for sustaining gender-focused development efforts.

In addition to restrictions on women’s participation, AWDREO must navigate a maze of bureaucratic obstacles. Taliban authorities now demand prior approval for nearly all aspects of NGO activity, including project design, hiring, and even routine staff movements. Programs face intense scrutiny and frequent interference, jeopardizing AWDREO’s neutrality and mission. Moreover, frequent changes in local Taliban leadership result in inconsistent rule enforcement, leading to delays and operational disruptions.

AWDREO Plan for 2025

As we move into 2025, AWDREO aims to strengthen its influence, broaden the scope of its operations, and improve the quality of its services as detailed below:


- **Expansion of Psychosocial Services:** AWDREO plans to extend its psychosocial counseling and prescription therapy services to two additional provinces, thereby increasing accessibility and geographic coverage.
- **Strengthening Humanitarian Emergency Response:** The AWDREO aims to expand its emergency response efforts to encompass more provinces, with a particular focus on reaching the most vulnerable and underserved populations during times of crisis.
- **Extension of Agricultural Development Initiatives:** AWDREO intends to secure additional funding for agricultural development and expand project implementation into further provinces, thereby promoting greater food security and rural development.
- **Secure additional funding sources:** In response to the US funding cut out, an critically work will be carried out to secure additional funding.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thanks our donors, community leaders, volunteers, and committed staff, whose unwavering dedication enables AWDREO to fulfill its mission. Your continued trust and partnership serve as the foundation of our achievements.

Contact Information

AWDREO Main Office: Karteh Seh, Kabul, Afghanistan

 Phone: +93728545743

 Email: awdreo.ngo@gmail.com / info@awdreo.org

 Website: <https://awdreo.org>