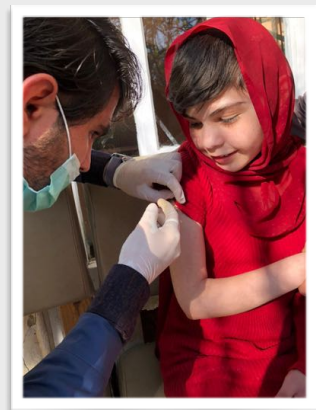


## Snapshots

**Kids from Window of Hope private care home got their annual flu vaccinations**



Dear Friends of ECI,

The last several months have been so difficult for all of us who love and care about Afghanistan and who have worked hard the past couple decades to bring about positive changes. The exodus of talent, rising fear, societal regression, and the acute humanitarian crisis have caused enough blame, anger, regret, and self-doubt to debilitate even the most committed among us.

And yet, throughout these fraught months, ECI's staff and partners have continued their efforts unabated and with the kind of commitment that comes from knowing--deep down--that their work makes a positive impact on the lives of countless individual Afghans and the society as a whole.

In February, I had the opportunity to see this commitment first hand while on an official trip to Kabul. I had the opportunity to visit ECI's school for children with disabilities, and Window of Hope, the orphanage for disabled children that ECI funds. What I saw was an organization that was not just surviving this difficult period, but thriving and growing more confident in its ability to educate and serve the public, lift up families, and protect vulnerable children. The professionals at the school were focused and dedicated; the students were excited to be there; the kids at Window of Hope were rambunctious and healthy; and the debt I owe them all for soothing and inspiring me can never be repaid.

I have been a part of ECI's work since it's very beginning, when my fellow board members and I were working in Kabul over a decade ago and volunteering at Window of Hope. I've seen the organization evolve from a group of a few volunteers, to a fast-growing, resilient local operation with almost 50 Afghan staff working across six provinces on six programs that protect and support disabled children and their families. And I know that it has taken not only our team's commitment and passion for the work to get to where we are today, even in these troubled times, but it has also equally required the generosity and goodwill of our donors across the globe who believe in our work and support us. Thank you for keeping ECI going.

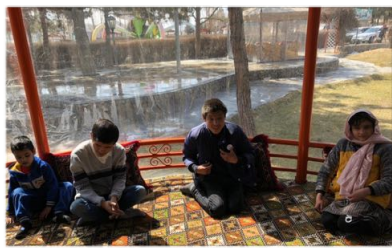
I hope the updates in this newsletter can bring you a glimpse of the inspiration I witnessed in Kabul this winter. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Siavash Rahbari  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Enabled Children Initiative, USA

## Snapshots

**For the first time this year, the kids from Window of Hope enjoyed a fun outing to Lake Qarga, where they enjoyed food and rides.**



## Updates

### Humanitarian Relief Work

Since August 2021, the **Frozan Fund** has been focused on implementing emergency relief work for those displaced and those in need due to the increasing humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan. Since August, our team has delivered over **3,000 hot meals** to internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and orphans, **medical aid** to IDP families, and **dry food packages and cash assistance to over 127 families in need**, many with disabilities. This work will continue to be our priority for the Frozan Fund as t h e



humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan unravels further. Read more about our humanitarian relief work here: <https://enabledchildren.org/frozan-fund>

### Community-based Disability Awareness & Support Program

With funding from our key donor, **Minderoo Foundation**, ECI expanded our work to support children with disabilities into 5 new provinces—in addition to Kabul, we are also now reaching families in Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Bamyan. The new program, called the **Community-based Disability Awareness and Support**



### Snapshots

**The students of the Enabled Children school celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a small celebrations attended by our staff, students, and families.**



**Program**, provides training, information & referrals to caregivers & families, as well as cash stipends to help families meet basic needs. Our goal is to reach 2,000 families across 6 provinces by 2023.

Since the program started in January, we have reached 329 families so far, across six provinces. Read more about the new programs



here: <https://enabledchildren.org/disability-awareness-support-program>

### International Women’s Day

Nearly half of ECI’s team of teachers, caretakers, staff & volunteers are Afghan women. Without their commitment & hard work, ECI would not be able to do our work of supporting

children with disabilities. This

**International Women’s Day**, we

recognized and celebrated the strong

Afghan women who make our work



### Snapshots

**More photos from our on-going humanitarian relief work via our Frozan Fund program. So far, we've helped 127 families with food packages and cash stipends.**



possible.

#### Chairman's Visit

In February, ECI USA's Chairman of the Board of Trustees was in Kabul and visited ECI's programs, meeting with staff and touring our school and Window of Hope. His visit gave our team a boost of confidence and gave our volunteers and remote-based team members new insight into how ECI's work is progressing.



#### Social Integration

This quarter, the first year of ECI's new Social Integration Program wrapped up successfully. The goal of the program is to integrate youths with disabilities into society by training them, equipping them with needed skills and placing them in the workforce as apprentices, interns, trainees and/or employees. We had 11 students enrolled in



the program and five of continued on placements training was



this year, them into after their complete.