



ANNUAL REPORT

ENABLED CHILDREN INITIATIVE 2022



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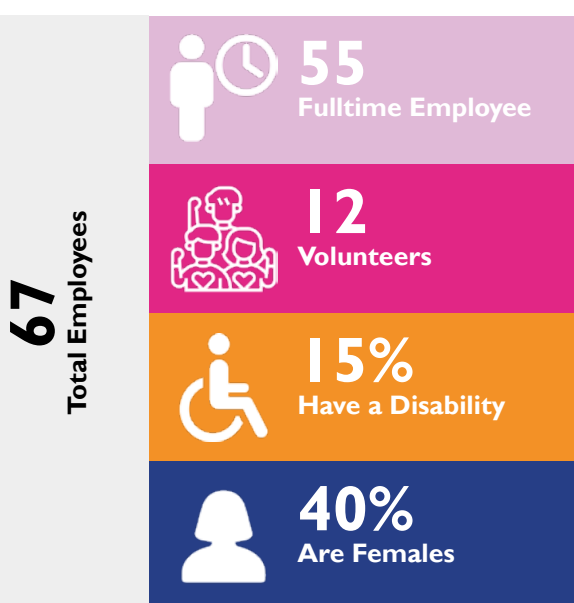
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ABOUT ENABLED CHILDREN INITIATIVE

Our Story

The Enabled Children Initiative (ECI) is an independent non-profit organization registered in the United States as a 501(c)(3), with a branch office in Afghanistan (registration number 465). ECI supports children with disabilities in Afghanistan. We are run by a team of Afghan men and women committed to the belief that #disabilityisnotinability.

More information can be found at www.enabledchildren.org



Our Mission

- Provide safe spaces for children and youth with disabilities to access their rights to education, healthcare and basic services
- Increase awareness and understanding of disability across Afghanistan
- Promote inclusion for persons with disabilities
- Support dignified lives for persons with disabilities

Our Vision

A more inclusive Afghanistan, where persons with disabilities are embraced and respected by their families and communities, and have equal access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities to reach their full potential as human beings.

What We Do

Through our six programs across six provinces, we provide residential, educational, income generation support and emergency aid to children and youth living with disabilities in Afghanistan, and their families.

- We fund a private care home, with an in-home school, called Window of Hope, for orphans and abandoned children with disabilities.
- We run an inclusive education school for children with disabilities, the Enabled Children School.
- We support families living in poverty to support their disabled child within the home and raise awareness in local communities, via our Community Based Disability Awareness & Support Program.
- We fund in-home education and mainstream integration for children with disabilities in Nangarhar.
- Our Social Integration program equips youth with disabilities with vocational skills and helps integrate them into society.
- Our Emergency Relief Fund program provides income generation and emergency relief for families living in poverty, or affected by natural disaster, who have a child or family member with a disability.
- We also advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in Afghanistan, helping families understand their child's rights, get children enrolled in school, or access to healthcare.

Guiding Values

- We believe disability is not inability.
- We believe in inclusion and integration of children with disabilities and keeping families together.
- We believe people with disabilities deserve a dignified life and equal opportunities to education, employment, and other human rights.

- We believe in empowering and enabling families and children with supportive services, giving a 'hand-up', instead of a 'hand-out.'
- We believe in volunteerism, and making our funds go a long way. 90% of funds raised goes directly to our programs in Afghanistan.
- We believe in partnerships and collaboration, so we can learn and improve our work.



A girl with split foot syndrome

Photo was taken during ECI awareness session.

Location: Nangarhar, Afghanistan

Date: December 8, 2022

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends and Supporters of ECI,

2022 marked an important milestone for the Enabled Children Initiative. For one, we were grateful to be able to continue to grow our work and achieve new milestones despite the challenges and restrictions. We also celebrated 10 years of our work in Afghanistan.

This milestone gave us a chance to reflect on our work, how we started and where we are going. The seed for ECI was planted over a decade ago when four friends met volunteering with children with disabilities. Today, those four friends are board members of what has become an independent, non-



profit, Afghan-led organization that is not only providing impactful and much needed support to over 1,000 children with disabilities and their families across six provinces of Afghanistan, but is also leading the way for disability inclusion and inclusive education in Afghanistan.

Today, our work is more urgent than ever. Since the collapse of the Afghan government in 2021, and the onset of a major humanitarian crisis, the situation for children with disabilities has gotten worse. Afghanistan is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis and economic collapse, a massive reduction in public health, education and

other basic support services, wide-scale unemployment, and escalating food and commodity prices. Save the Children reported that in 2022, children with disabilities bore the brunt of this disaster. Afghan families with disability in their household are most likely to have children resorting to hard labor to make ends meet and were four times more likely to have lost their income over the past year. The occurrence of children with disabilities staying out of school increased over the past year, with 1 out of 7 Afghan children reporting that they don't attend school due to disability. Human Rights Watch also reported that in 2022, persons with disabilities were routinely overlooked in



humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan, although they are some of the most vulnerable and in-need populations.

We often get asked, how are we even able to continue operating given the current challenges? Every day that we keep our doors open is a gift for ECI, but not an accident. Our team has worked extremely hard. Our work is led by a highly dedicated and qualified team of Afghan professionals based in Afghanistan who not only ground our work in the daily needs and realities of the families and children we serve, but are able to navigate the challenges carefully, diligently, and

in a way that maintains our principles of inclusion, equality, and respect. We believe this ground-up approach has been our strength and gotten us through moments of crisis.

This is not only due to the diligence and dedication of our team in Afghanistan, but also the commitment and faith of our supporters around the globe. Afghanistan is yet again out of the public eye and no longer a priority for many donors. ECI is truly blessed to have donors—both individuals

and organizations—who believe in our work and continue to be an extremely important part of helping us to keep going and growing. We extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude.

We hope that this inaugural annual report will give you insight into what we have been able to achieve this year. It provides some highlights from each of our programs, our financials for 2022, and a look ahead to 2023.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

With gratitude,

Siavash Rahbari, Chairman, ECI Board of Trustees

Lael Mohib, Executive Director

Jahanzeb Daudzai, Country Director



2022 IN REVIEW

2022 was a year of growth, development, and transition for the Enabled Children Initiative in Afghanistan. Despite the challenges in Afghanistan and a shrinking donor space, we were able to meet our program expansion, fundraising, and institutional development goals.

Our exceptional team in Afghanistan continued to navigate an uncertain political environment, including a ban on Afghan women working for NGOs and a ban on women attending university—both of which affected our programming temporarily. We have also maintained our commitment to efficient program delivery, with a ground-up approach to decision-making and reduced over-heads so about 90% of funds raised continues to go directly to our programs in Afghanistan.

Growing our programs....

ECI continued to lead in the inclusive education and inclusive development space in Afghanistan, continuing, strengthening and expanding our programs across six provinces, and achieving important milestones. Some of these milestones included:

- Integrating students with disabilities into mainstream schools
- Facilitating employment for youth with disabilities who graduated from our Social Integration Program
- Reaching over 600 families living in poverty with humanitarian assistance, referrals, and support for their child with a disability.

Growing our organization...

In 2022, we executed an intensive institutional development plan that included a comprehensive risk assessment followed by a series of capacity building trainings for our team in Afghanistan. At the headquarter level, we developed and executed a new fundraising and outreach strategy, with the goal of finding new partnerships and platforms for ECI.

Developing new partnerships...

We have forged new partnerships to enrich, connect and better inform our work, becoming members of

- [Inclusion International](#)
- [Connective Impact](#)
- [Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development](#)

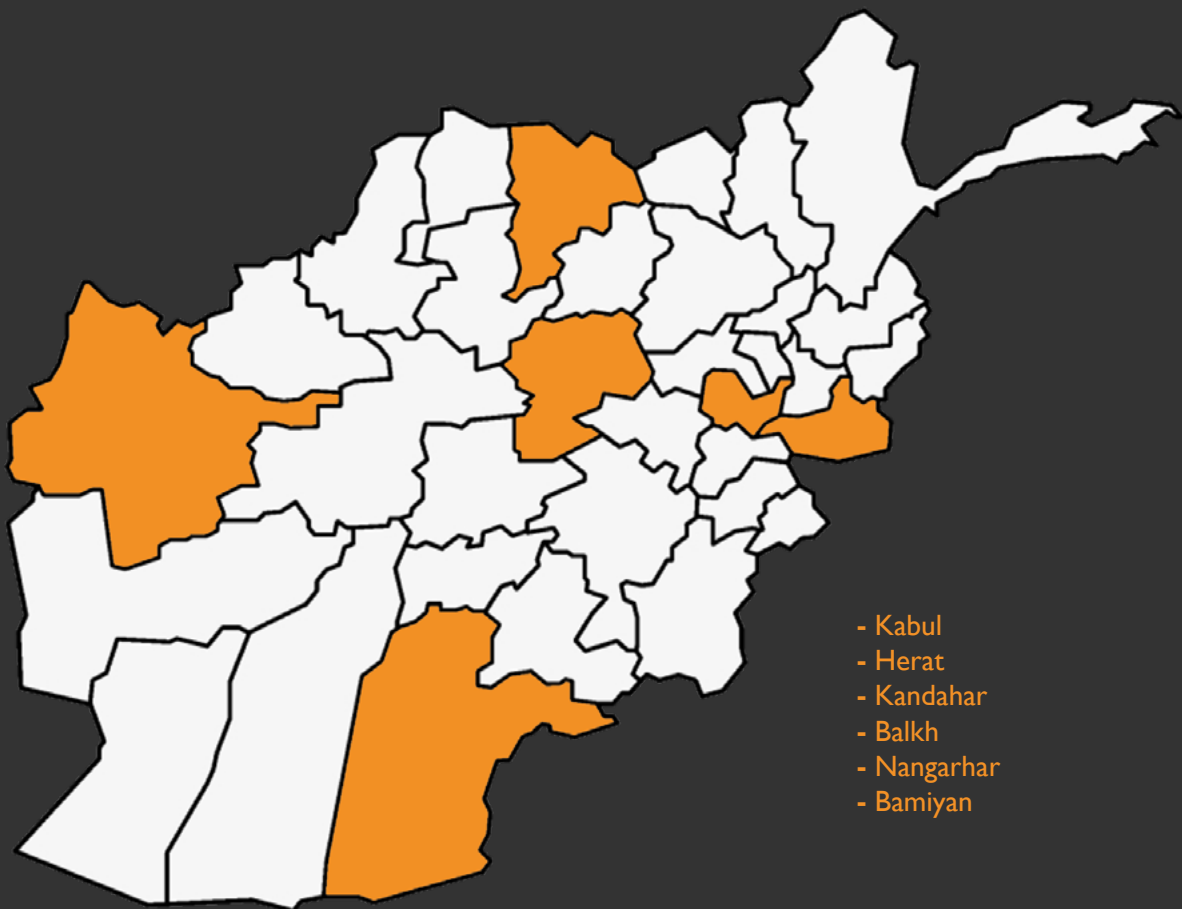
Getting the word out!

Our team in Afghanistan found time to co-author articles showcasing the critical work they are doing.

- [The Effectiveness of Community and Family-based Approaches to Disability Awareness and Support in Afghanistan, 2022, Tangata Blog](#)
- [Supporting Learners with Disabilities in Afghanistan, Enabled Education Review, 2022](#)



REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE WITH KEY SERVICES



Our six programs across six provinces continued to provide life-changing services to over 1,000 children with disabilities and their families, from education to income generation, emergency relief, and rehabilitation support. Below is an in-depth look at what each program delivered in 2022.



I. Enabled Children School

The Enabled Children School is Kabul's first school for children with all types of disabilities. The School welcomes children of all ages with a disability, including physical, intellectual or sensory, and adapts learning approaches to meet the needs of each student. We enable each child to reach their unique capacity and potential, using traditional classroom approaches to teach standard academic subjects, as well as including occupational and physical therapy, sports, art, sign language, and life-skills training into our curricula. The school aims to integrate students into mainstream schools and develop partnerships with those schools to encourage more inclusive learning environments in Kabul. The school is a family-focused learning environment, and our team works closely with families, parents, and caretakers to ensure the best learning outcomes for students, and quality care both at school and in the home. The school launched December 2020.

Achievement highlights this year:

- Moved to a larger building/campus with plenty of room for growth
- Enrolled 23 new students in 2022, bringing our total enrollment to 61 students (32 boys, and 29 girls)
- Established inclusive education training partnerships with three mainstream schools
- Integrated our first student into a mainstream school



2. Social Integration Program

The Social Integration program (SIP) integrates youths with disabilities into society by equipping them with needed skills and placing them in the workforce as apprentices, interns, trainees and/or employees. This program includes skills-building, apprenticeships, scholarships for higher education, and placements in vocational training programs. The program launched in March 2021.

Achievement highlights this year:

- 17 students (nine female and eight male) are enrolled in the program
- Two students (one male, one female) graduated and secured employment
- Three students (male) completed internships at ICRC hospital
- Three students (female) received scholarships to continue their higher education studies in midwifery and dentistry
- Five students (female) completed a six-month tailoring training course & established their own business
- Social enterprise bakery launched



3. Window of Hope orphanage for abandoned children with disabilities

Window of Hope (WoH) is a private residential care home in Kabul, Afghanistan for children and youths from around the country with disabilities who have been abandoned by their parents, or orphaned. It is the only orphanage in Kabul that provides residential care to disabled orphans and abandoned disabled children. ECI provides full financial support to Window of Hope, and has done so since 2013. This year, WoH undertook renovations and upgrades and expanded to take in three more children and is currently home to 26 children and youths (18 boys and eight girls). The children and youths are both male and female and range in age from around four years old to 21 years old, and have a variety of intellectual, trauma-induced, sensory and physical disabilities. ECI has two staff members that work full-time at Window of Hope—the Operations Manager and the Child Development Manager. WoH employs three administrative staff who also assist with caretaking, five full-time caretakers, a driver, a guard, a physiotherapist, and two full-time teachers who are involved in the children's care and education. ECI's full support covers all of the costs of the orphanage, including rent, food, clothing, utilities, healthcare, staff salaries, recreational activities, vehicle maintenance, heating and fuel, and all other costs. ECI also provides capacity building and training for Window of Hope staff.

Achievement highlights this year:

- **26 abandoned children with disabilities provided with**
- **shelter, education and full-time care**
- **medical treatment**
- **physiotherapy treatment**
- **psychosocial counseling**
- **recreational activities**
- **clothes and basic needs**



4. Community-Based Disability Awareness and Support Program

The CBDASP launched in December 2021 and is implemented in across Kabul, Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Bamyán provinces. There are three main components, and corresponding objectives, of the program including the following:

- Awareness-raising: to raise awareness and share information about disability across Afghanistan, particularly via a radio component of the project, and in particular to instill in families of children with disabilities the belief that children who live with a disability should be supported, treated equally, and empowered;
- Providing practical support: to support people with disabilities and families with disabled children in communities across Afghanistan by connecting them with local resources and support services, providing information and raising awareness on disability, and providing trainings and other supportive services;
- Providing emergency relief: to provide emergency relief (namely, cash stipends) to poor families who have a disabled child or family member.

Achievement highlights this year:

- Six provincial offices established in Kandahar, Bamyán, Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar
- Provincial teams, led by a disability ambassador, established in each provincial center
- 12 radio magazine program about disability awareness produced and aired
- 7,172 men and women reached in disability awareness sessions
- 600 children with disabilities and their families enrolled in the program
- 14 awareness-raising events celebrate across six provinces
- 637 children in need of physiotherapy, rehabilitation and medical treatment referred to service providers



5. Frozan Fund (renamed Emergency Relief Fund)

In April 2019, ECI initiated the Frozan Fund to provide emergency assistance and income generation support to families with disabled children in a desperate situation. For many families in Afghanistan, particularly those living in poverty, raising a child with a disability can be an overwhelming responsibility, as can being a parent with a disability, and some in the most desperate situations resort to abandoning their children. The Frozan Fund helps keep families together by providing immediate assistance and longer-term income generation solutions. Funding is used to pay for rent and food, school supplies and clothing, and also to provide small grants for families to invest in sustainable income generation.

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. In 2022, the fund particularly focused on families affected by the humanitarian crisis and natural disaster.

Achievement highlights this year:

- 280 families received aid packages
- 170 packages of sanitary items (diapers) donated to orphans in need



6. Mirza Gul Family Fund

In 2018, ECI started a fund for seven children from the same extended family in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan who had suffered multiple amputations from a landmine in their yard. At the family's request, ECI used the funds to hire a teacher and pay for school supplies, so the children would be able to continue their education in their home. The fund has supported the maintenance of the in-home school and education costs for the children. Now, the seven children are integrated back into mainstream schools, and over 2022, ECI has been conducting dis-ability awareness training at the school, as well as working to expand this program to reach other out of school children with disabilities in Nangarhar province in 2023.

Achievement highlights this year:

- All seven children integrated back into mainstream local schools
- Inclusive education and disability awareness trainings conducted for school
- Teacher trainings completed
- Plans in the works to expand the program in 2023



Moving Forward

2023 will be an inflection point for ECI. Our priorities next year are to:

- maintain and improve the programs that burgeoned in 2022
- plan and implement program expansion in a gradual and sustainable method
- seek new partnerships that enrich our work
- establish new funding partnerships
- look for new platforms to discuss and share our work
- systematize our monitoring and evaluation methods to better analyze our work and understand its impact.
- At the leadership level, we will also see changes and transitions underway in 2023, including transitioning to new country level leadership.

Throughout this time of change and growth, we will maintain our guiding principles in delivering key services to the families, children, and youth in our care, and we will continue to navigate an uncertain environment, prioritizing the safety of all our staff and those who benefit from our services.

2022 Financials

Revenue Sources	Amount
Donor Grants	394,317.92
Individual Donations	238,664.31
Total Revenue	632,982.23
Expenses	Amount
Programs	582,015
Administrative & Management	75,612
Total Expenses	657,627
Revenue less Expenses	(24,645)



85%

of funds were expended in Afghanistan on our programs.



11%

expended on management and administrative fees



62%

of funds came from institutional grants



38%

donated by individual donors.

Statement of Financial Position

Enabled Children Initiative

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2022

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
102 Enabled Children (2737)	302,755
Total Bank Accounts	\$302,755
Total Current Assets	\$302,755
TOTAL ASSETS	\$302,755
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
300 Accounts Payable	1,000
Total Accounts Payable	\$1,000
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,000
Total Liabilities	\$1,000
Equity	
420 Retained Earnings	326,401
Net Revenue	-24,646
Total Equity	\$301,755
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$302,755



Thank you to our supporters!

Our supporters throughout the year have been generous, consistent, and steadfast.
We appreciate you and we thank you!



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FOUNDATION

AFGHAN
CHARITY WEEK

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And all of those individual supporters across the globe!



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ECI is a registered charity in Afghanistan: 465
ECI is a registered 501c3 in the USA: 811532920

www.enabledchildren.org
Social Media: @EnabledChildren