

AFGHAN INSTITUTE OF LEARNING



Location: Afghanistan

Partner: Creating Hope International

Issue Areas: Universal Education, Gender Equality, Armed Conflict

Points of Interest: Communication with AIL Students

The Organization

The Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1995 by Professor Sakena Yacoobi. AIL addresses the problems of poor education and health services for women and children, trains teachers, and teaches about human rights. AIL is an organization run by Afghan women. They teach literacy, English, computer skills, math, science, and skills women can use to make a living, such as tailoring.

Why the Need?

Thirty plus years of war and civil strife has left a generation that is illiterate. Only 28% of the population can read or write, with that number plunging to 12.6% of females being literate. To survive as a family, members need to become literate and learn job skills so they can earn an income. The Afghan Institute of Learning: 1. **trains** teachers, and 2. **teaches** in their educational learning centers literacy, tailoring, computer skills, and other critical subjects to Afghans who are too poor to pay for private education.

AIL's teacher training staff develops curriculum, training seminars, and workshops to educate Afghan women. In addition to **educational** subjects, the AIL staff has developed **life skills workshops** in topics like peace, health, psychology, hygiene and manners. In all their classes, AIL also integrates and teaches important topics like peace, health, human rights, and gender issues. Afghans are in desperate need of high-quality, culturally sensitive education and healthcare programs for women and children in the communities where they live.

How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

AIL has a number of **educational learning centers** (ELCs), and most of the centers serve people living in rural communities. All centers are grassroots and locally led, meaning the teachers and staff working and making decisions at a center come from the **very same community** that center is located. Centers are supported by AIL, who provides supplies, teachers' salaries, staff training, and sometimes rent.

Classes are chosen by the people attending the center and include such subjects as literacy (learning to read, write and do simple math), Arabic, sewing/tailoring, computer skills, English, math, chemistry, physics, art, calligraphy, carpet weaving, knitting and other subjects. Each year approximately 25,000 students attend six-month classes. To date, AIL has trained over 17,000 teachers in student-centered teaching techniques. Since 1995, these teachers have impacted Afghans by improving the quality of education for **over four million** Afghans.

Centers are located in the Afghan provinces of Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Parwan and Bamiyan and in Peshawar, Pakistan [for Afghan refugees]. **For every \$25 dollars New Global Citizens Teams fundraise, one AIL student will be able to attend six months of classes. This is a project where small amounts of money will make a tremendous impact on the lives of Afghan communities.**

The Partner

Creating Hope International (CHI) was founded to improve the daily lives of the underserved- often victims of world strife, natural disasters, crumbling economies, and political systems which suppress **natural** human rights. Every day, people struggle to obtain those things that we as Americans often take for granted: food, shelter, health care, employment and education.

CHI works with AIL and begins projects at the grassroots level to solve problems with local solutions. CHI invests in building **local education and health resources** and training local people with the skills they need to continue the work on their own in the future. In the process, local people restore their self-confidence, develop expertise, and create new thriving communities out of the ashes of the old.

NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and the solutions to their problems. We want to advocate to and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Afghan Institute of Learning. By sending your team's funds directly to Creating Hope International (the USA fiscal partner of AIL), your project organization has the **power to decide the best way** to use the money. And since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support that local economy.

Afghan Institute of Learning focuses on one of the most marginalized groups in Afghanistan- **women and girls**. Instead of building new schools and sending in teachers, AIL supports schools that already exist and are supported by the local community.

Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://www.creatinghope.org/>

CIA World Factbook (Afghanistan): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

Embassy of Afghanistan: <http://www.embassyofafghanistan.org/>

Movie Trailer for Afghan Star: <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/afghanstar/>

Human Rights Watch (Afghanistan): <http://www.hrw.org/asia/afghanistan>

See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.