



Annual Report for January - December 2006

About Afghanistan Relief Organization:

Afghanistan Relief Organization (ARO) is a non-political, non-religious, non profit, humanitarian organization. Founded in the United States in 1998 – and registered in both the United States and Afghanistan – ARO is managed and operated by volunteers, both Afghan American and Americans of all backgrounds and faiths.

Afghanistan Relief Organization's sole purpose is to serve and help needy people (women, children, the elderly and the disabled) throughout Afghanistan by providing basic relief needs (e.g. clothing, medical supplies, food, hygiene supplies) and educational and professional support.

The Technical Education Center (TEC):

ARO established an educational center in the Kart-e-Char neighborhood of Kabul in early 2003. In 2006, ARO established the Vocational Training Center in a separate building. Student enrollment in all sections is free, in order to enable low-income children and adults to receive quality education services. ARO gives priority to children and youth of refugee returnees. ARO provides school supplies at no cost to all students.

Currently the Center has more than 1100 students who study English, mathematics, and basic computer skills. In addition, vocational skills including auto mechanics, tailoring, carpentry, plumbing, nursing, electronics and computer repair are offered. Special classes prepare high school graduates for university entrance examinations (Kankor), and ARO offers classes in Dari for illiterate adults.

Extra Curricular Programs:

ARO developed a sports program for children and young adults of both boys and girls. There are more than 120 students enrolled in soccer, karate, Tae, and Shinto.

New Programs:

Recently, ARO opened a new class offering Pashto language instruction, and a Kolba-e-Mawlana, in which students are taught Masnavi, Dari literature, and the ancient history and culture of ancient Ariana.

In short, ARO's mission is to educate for self-sufficiency, direct youthful energy to healthy activities, and to provide cultural enrichment toward the recovery of Afghanistan.

ARO Vocational Programs

In early 2006 ARO inaugurated its vocational center in Kart-e-Char, Kabul. The purpose of establishing this center as branch of ARO is to help acquire job skills needed for employment opportunities in Afghanistan. Around 150 students are recruited for these courses from very low income families. The goal of the ARO vocational center is to teach job skills that enable our students to find employment in fields necessary to maintain a growing economy. Students become self sufficient, and will help with the reconstruction and recovery of Afghanistan.

The vocational trainees attend class every day for two hours. The classes are offered in the afternoon to allow students to attend academic programs at schools or university.

ARO offers the following vocational fields:

1. The Auto Mechanics Course:

In this class, 30 students receive instruction in auto mechanics for 22 months. Upon graduating, students will be able to perform engine work repair on passenger cars. They also learn dent-removal (panel beating or body work), painting and welding (iron work). These additional skills allow students to make chairs, tables, windows, doors, fencing and other products for broader employment opportunities. Auto Mechanic graduates learn skills to establish their own garages and work independently, or to gain employment in private garages in Kabul. Since students also are learning English skills, they are prime candidates for employment by government offices, embassies and NGOs.



2. The Plumbing Course:

Students are enrolled in the Plumbing Course for one year, to provide them with skills to become employed or start their own business as professional plumbers. In the reconstruction environment, plumbing skills are in high demand and students are finding immediate employment.

3. The Carpentry Course:

This is a new program currently being initiated by ARO. Students are enrolled in the Carpentry Course for one year. Graduates will be able to make chairs, sofas, tables, doors, windows, cupboards and other cabinetry of furniture items. Similar to graduates in the Plumbing Course, graduates of the Carpentry Course are needed as part of the reconstruction effort.

4. The Electronics and computer repair Course:

Students are enrolled in the Electrician Course for one year. Inadequate electricity is a primary concern and one of the key reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Today, many families use generators, and work with old or unsafe home appliances. Graduates of the Electrician Course will find work opportunities in private houses for rewiring, wiring and other electronic work. Students will acquire skills allowing them to own their own workshops, or find employment repairing TVs, radios, tapes, irons, computers, washing machines and other electronic equipment.



5. The Sewing Initiative:

The Sewing Initiative was started by Colorado volunteer, Margaret Stockover in 2004. There are two main objectives of the Sewing Initiative. First, financial assistance for widows, women and girls from very low income families. Every month, the completed embroidery works are collected and sold in U.S, providing income for the women. Secondly, the women learn business skills to enable them to work independently and become self-sufficient. Graduates of the one-year program receive a sewing machine, and may continue their business at home. The first group to graduate included nine women, and ten women graduated from embroidery class and were given certificates last month. Margaret Stockover periodically travels to Kabul to oversee the program, and also provides accounting assistance to ARO.



6. Nursing Assistant Course:

The Nursing Assistant Course was started through the initiative of California volunteer Nadia Maiwandi, who collected donations to fund the program and a student health clinic for a two-year period. Students enrolled in the Nursing Assistant Course attend classes for 22 months. Instruction is provided by medical doctors and nurses at ARO's education center. The Nursing Assistant students also learn English and computer skills too. Skilled healthcare workers are in high demand in Kabul and the provinces, and graduates should find employment at government and private hospitals. Maiwand Hospital, one of the most famous hospitals in Kabul, has already recruited some of the Nursing Assistant students and is providing them with additional training and employment. Female healthcare workers are needed in Afghanistan to assist with female patients, who may not wish to be seen by male doctors or nurses.



ARO nurses who are recruited at Maiwand Hospital, Kabul

7. ARO Student Health Clinic: Established in conjunction with the Nursing Assistant Course, the ARO clinic provides healthcare services to 1100 students and their parents. Healthcare services are provided to them at no charge.



ARO doctor and one of the nurses with a patient

ARO Technical Education Center

ARO opened the Technical Education Center (TEC) in Kart-e-Char, in a former family compound donated by Mr. Abul Fazal Khalili-Chairman of the Afghanistan Relief Organization. This donation allows ARO to operate the educational center rent-free, focusing fundraising efforts on operations and salaries.

The ARO Tech Center offers the following courses:

A: ARO Science, Management and Accounting courses:

ARO offers a 6-month course in management and accounting for students of the Economic Faculty, at Kabul University. Graduates from this course have found lucrative jobs at international organizations, NGOs, and banking institutions. During the year 2006, 35 students graduated, 15 students in the first six months and 20 in the second session.

In addition to the management and accounting class, ARO offers tuition courses in order to supplement subjects that are taught at public schools. Algebra and mathematics are offered five days a week, for one-year programs covering intermediate and high school curriculums.

Furthermore, we offer a placement test class (kankor class), which prepares high school students for university admissions exams in Afghanistan. The Kankor class is a six-month program.

B: ARO English Courses:

The ARO English Department is offering the following classes:

- Beginning English Class 2 months
- Departure (Elementary) 4 months
- Connections (Intermediate) 5 months
- Destinations (Advanced) 6 months
- Advanced 2 3 months
- TEOFL Prep Class 2 months
- Special conversation class 6 months

This program is assisted with a grant from the US Embassy. Students studied “New InterCom” books in 2005, but in 2006 the books changed to the “New American Streamline” curriculum. Besides, tapes and CDs that teachers are using in classes, educational movies are screened to build English skills.

In late 2006 ARO opened a TEOFL (Test Of English as a Foreign Language) prep-class at ARO. This class is a two and a half month course. The mission is to provide English instruction, and prepare them for the TEOFL test. Students learn key points of grammar, listening and reading skills to prepare them for the TEOFL. Currently we have 35 students in the TEOFL class, most of whom are university and university graduate students. These students wish to continue their higher education abroad and at international universities.

In 2006, around 70 students graduated from the Advanced 2 class. Thirty students in the first session and 40 in the other session were given certificates of graduation. These graduate students also were instructed in basic computer skills at ARO. Now some graduates are teaching English in private institutions in Kabul, while others were employed by NGOs as interpreters and translators. Also in early 2006, ARO attracted volunteer instructors for the English section. Hila Hanif, Adam, Suzzane and Laila—all USAID employees—provided conversational English instruction voluntarily. Currently, Hila Hanif continues her conversational English class at ARO.



C: ARO Computer Courses:

ARO's computer department provides students a 12-month course to cover the following software and hardware courses at ARO:

- Windows XP 2006
- Ms Word
- Ms Excel
- Ms Access
- Ms PowerPoint
- Ms Publishers
- A+ Hardware

In 2006, ARO graduated 75 students with basic computer skills, as well as basic English skills. The procedure for recruiting students for the computer was strict. Students who studied the English Connection Class, or higher, were able to enroll in the computer class. Most of our graduate students in computer field, particularly women, have found good jobs in hospitals, offices, NGOs, government offices and private institutions.

ARO plans to open an introductory internet class, too. The Internet Class will prepare students to use the internet for their university and schools, research scholarships, and learn about the world.



D: ARO Sports Activities:

ARO recognizes that team sports are a very effective way of teaching honesty, fostering teamwork, and building strong and healthy minds and bodies.

ARO sports department includes the following:

- **Girls' Karate:** Currently, 30 girls receive instruction from a female instructor, Ustad Alina, in two shifts, morning and evening. Ustad Alina received second place and tournament cup in the Afghan Women's Olympic tournament in Kabul. She also traveled to Iran for Asian tournament, receiving a bronze medal. The competition was among 24 countries in Asia. During 2006, she also went to Tajikistan, at the invitation of some Karate clubs. Also eight girls from the Karate program participated in the Afghan Women's Olympic tournament. Four of these girls won silver and two of them gold medals. The same year, three of Ustad Alina's other trainees went to

Qatar to compete. Ustad Alina has been recognized as the best karate instructor in Kabul. In the near future, there will be a gathering of the Olympic committee and we anticipate two karate students from ARO will go to Iran for the competition.

- **Boys' Karate:** There are boys enrolled in Karate. In 2006, many of the boys from this club won gold medals and four won silver from the Olympic tournaments in Afghanistan.
- **Girls' Judo:** In late 2006, ARO sports department also managed to open a new sports class for girls' Judo. Previously these girls were members of the official team in Rabea-e-Balkhi girls' high school. The education department could not continue with this team and ARO recruited them. Now they are 10 girls in our Judo team.
- **Boys' Wu shu:** Thirty boys are enrolled in the Wu Shu program. The trainer received third place in the Afghan tournament in 2006. Their master instructor, Jawad, currently is in China for six month advanced training in Wu Shu and Tai Chi.
- **Boys' Taek Wundu:** The trainer for Taek Wundu got third position in the summer tournament in Kabul. Twenty-five students are enrolled in this sport program.
- **Boys' soccer team:** This team from ARO has been successful in local competitions. The boys' soccer team won the 3rd place cup in the Overall Soccer League in Kabul in a competition of 36 clubs.
- **Future programs:** We are beginning a girls' basketball team in the near future.

**Wu Shu, Judo and Karate
Teams (Girls & Boys)**



Boys' Soccer Team



Girls' Karate Trainer



E: ARO Native Languages Program – Dari and Pashto classes:

The Dari class opened in late 2006, in order to provide instruction to illiterate adults. Students enrolled in the one-year program learn to read and write Dari, and are taught basic math skills (to assist their later application to other educational institutions). There are 30 students enrolled in this class, including men and women. Some of the students are women who were deprived of going to schools during the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. After one year, students are introduced to advance schools to continue their education.

The Pashto class started in December 2006. The 30 students in this class include girls and boys. Most of these students are intermediate and high school students who come from low-income families and face language problems in school. Pashto instruction will assist students in their advancement to other educational institutions.

Other activities:

Re-Greening Project

The drought in the last two decades destroyed Afghanistan's agricultural system. Afghanistan's majority economy is based on agriculture. During the civil war and Taliban regime in Kabul, most of the tree-lined streets and gardens were destroyed as people were forced to cut trees for fire wood, in order to survive. Afghanistan must plant trees to restore the natural environment and mitigate air pollution.

In early spring 2006, Dr. Sultana Parwanta, an ARO volunteer, donated around six-thousand seedling plants to ARO. These were distributed to ARO students, to spread throughout the community as a re-greening project. The seedling plants included both ordinary and fruitful trees such as, apple trees, pear trees, walnut trees, peach trees. Besides gifting our students with the fruitful plants, ARO held seminars and class discussion for our students to teach them the importance of trees in the country.



ARO relief aide shipment to Badakhshan and Nursitan:

In August 2006, an ARO relief team traveled across country to distribute relief supplies to Badakhshan and Nuristan. The relief distribution included: blankets, coats, shirts, overcoats, pillows, mattresses, pants, trousers, gloves, and hand knit clothing from knitters in America . The travel and supply distribution took almost a week. Badakhshan and Nuristan are among the poorest provinces in Afghanistan. More information about the relief distribution can be found on ARO's website, www.afghanrelief.com.



Kolba-e-Mawlana: Poetry and Literature of Afghanistan

ARO inaugurated a Kolba-e-Mawlana at the TEC in December 2006. For this class, ARO recruits students who are interested in poetry, Dari literature, the culture of Ariana. The poetry focuses mainly on the great Mawlana Jalauddin Mohd-e-Balkhi Roomi (the 14th Century Afghan poet, Rumi). The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated 2007 as the “Year of Rumi” to mark the 800th birth of the poet. The English translation of some of Rumi’s works, *The Essential Rumi*, is the most successful poetry book in the West in the past decade.



Kolba-e-Mawlana

زین خلق پر شکایت گریان شدم ملول آن های و هوی و نعرهء مستانم آرزوست
زین همراهم سست عناصر دلم گرفت شیر خدا و رستم دستانم آرزوست

Photo list of students who have found jobs at various places

 (AIB Bank)	 (Da Afghanistan Bank)	 (Indian Hopital)	 (Indian Hospital)	 (AIB Bank)
 Sunil (AIB Bank)	 (AIB Bank)	 ITCK Kabul University		

Note: The above photos are only some of our students who have found lucrative jobs in Kabul. There are about 35 students who found very good jobs in Kabul but we don't have their photos on hand. We will request them to bring their photos too. The rest of our students who found jobs are as follows:

- Naweed
- Ajmal
- Ali Reza
- Tariq
- Toofan
- Qais
- Irfan
- Humaira
- Salem
- Huma
- Narges
- Mursal
- Amruddin
- Maher
- Basir Ahmad

Photo List of volunteers who took active parts in teaching of ARO student



Suzanne (English Conversation Teacher)



Adam (English Conversation Teacher)



Dr. Sultana Parwanta (Teachers' Trainer)



Ustad Hila Hanif
(Volunteer Conversation Teacher)



Ustand Ajmal Abawi
(Volunteer Teacher for Management and
Accounting Class)

Total ARO's TEC operational expenses for training 1040 student for year 2006 in above fields.

Expenses ARO made from its own budget for the year of 2006

Total Expenses in ARO	
Month of Jan	\$ 3,562.00
Month of Feb	\$ 4,443.00
Month of March	\$ 3,431.00
Month of April	\$ 2,918.00
Month of May	\$ 3,696.00
Month of Jun	\$ 3,181.00
Month of July	\$ 4,545.00
Month of Aug	\$ 5,605.00
Month of Sep	\$ 10,372.00
Month of Oct	\$ 2,968.00
Month of November	\$ 4,604.00
Month of December	\$ 4,330.00
Total	\$ 53,655.00

Compare cost verses private sector on these fields ARO had provided on 2006

Computer Software			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Windows	600	\$12.12	one person
Words	1000	\$20.20	one person
Excel	1200	\$24.24	one person
PowerPoint	900	\$18.18	one person
Access + Project	4000	\$80.81	one person
Basic Net working	3000	\$60.61	one person
Total Fee/ Person	10700	\$216.16	
Total student/year	Total cost for 150 students	US Dollar	
150	1605000	\$32,424.24	

Hardware /Electronic			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Hardware	4000	\$80.81	one person

Total Fee/Person	12000	\$242.42	
Total student/year	Total cost for 120 students		
120	1440000	\$29,090.91	

Plumbing			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Plumbing	500	\$10.10	one person
Total Fee/Person	6000	\$121.21	
Total student/year	Total cost for 30 trainees		
30	180000	\$3,636.36	

Auto Mechanics			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Auto Mechanics panel beating and welding	2000	\$40.40	one person
Total Fee/Person	24000	\$484.85	
Total student/year	Total cost for 30 students		
30	720000	\$14,545.45	

Sports			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Girls' Karate', Boys karate, Wushu, Shinto, Girls' Judo	300	\$6.06	one person
	2000		
Total Fee/Person	5600	\$113.13	
Total student/year	Total cost for 300 trainees		
300	1680000	\$33,939.39	

Nursing			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Training of Nurses	2000	\$40.40	one person
Total Fee/Person	24000	\$484.85	

Total student/year	Total cost for 30 students		
30	720000	\$14,545.45	

English Classes			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Beginner	100	\$2.02	
elementary 1	300	\$6.06	
elementary 2	300	\$6.06	
intermediate 1	300	\$6.06	
intermediate 2	300	\$6.06	
Higher Intermediate 1	400	\$8.08	
Higher Intermediate 2	400	\$8.08	
Advanced	600	\$12.12	
TOEFL prep	3500	\$70.71	
Special Conversation	1000	\$20.20	
Total Fee/ Person	7200	\$145.45	One person
Total student/year	Total cost for 500 students		
500	1800000	\$36,363.64	

Accounting and Management			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Training of Accounting and Management	2500	\$50.51	One person
Total Fee/Person	30000	\$606.06	
Total student/year	Total cost for 60 students		
60	1800000	\$36,363.64	

Science (Math, Kankor and Algebra)			
Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Math, Kankor and Algebra	150	\$3.03	one person
Total Fee/Person	1800	\$36.36	
Total student/year	Total cost for 120 students		
120	216000	\$4,363.64	

Afghan Womens' Self Sufficiency Project - A Sewing Initiative

Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Children Training	300	\$6.06	one person
Total Fee/Person	3600	\$72.73	
Total student/year	Total cost for 9 students		
9	32400	\$654.55	

Tailoring 2

Programs	AFG	US Dollar	
Women's salaries	1400	\$28.28	one person
Total Fee/Person	16800	\$339.39	
Total student/year	Total cost for 21 students		
21	352800	\$7,127.27	

Total estimated benefit during one year: \$213,054.55

Help the Afghanistan Relief Organization.
Learn more and donate online at www.afghanrelief.com.