



AABRAR



# Annual Report 2023

PREPARED BY: SYED WAHEED SHAH

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AFGHAN AMPUTEE BICYCLISTS FOR REHABILITATION AND RECREATION (AABRAR)

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## 2 INTRODUCTION:

The year 2023 was marked by immense challenges for Afghanistan's communities, yet it also demonstrated the resilience and determination of those striving for a better future. Amidst conflict, economic hardship, and restrictions on access to essential services, millions of Afghans continued to face barriers to education, healthcare, livelihoods, and protection.

AABRAR, with the support of partners including **UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS/UNOPS, and UNHCR**, intensified its efforts to respond to these urgent needs. Guided by its vision of an Afghanistan free from violence and discrimination, AABRAR worked across multiple provinces to deliver **community-based education, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, livelihood opportunities, and reintegration assistance**.

In 2023, our interventions reached **tens of thousands of children, women, men, and families**. We expanded access to education for out-of-school children in Nuristan and Laghman, provided rehabilitation and psychosocial services to persons with disabilities and war victims in Baghlan and Paktia, and delivered cash, shelter, and livelihood support to vulnerable returnees and IDPs in the Central Highlands. Each project was designed not only to meet immediate needs but also to build long-term resilience, strengthen community cohesion, and promote dignity and inclusion.

This Annual Report highlights the collective impact of AABRAR's education, health, and protection portfolios in 2023. It reflects the dedication of our teams, the trust of our communities, and the invaluable support of our partners. Together, we continue to work toward a future where every child learns, every person with a disability is empowered, and every displaced family finds safety, dignity, and hope.

## 3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2023, AABRAR, in partnership with UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS/UNOPS, and UNHCR, implemented a diverse portfolio of projects across Afghanistan to address urgent humanitarian needs in **education, health, and protection/reintegration**. These interventions reached **tens of thousands of vulnerable children, women, men, and families**, strengthening resilience, promoting inclusion, and supporting durable solutions in conflict-affected communities.

### Education Portfolio (Nuristan & Laghman)

AABRAR expanded **Community-Based Education (CBE)** programs in Nuristan and Laghman provinces, ensuring access to learning for thousands of out-of-school children.

- In **Nuristan**, 300 CBS/ALC classes were established, enrolling over **10,500 children**, with 300 teachers (including 77 female) recruited and trained.
- In **Laghman**, two phases of CBE projects established 426 CBS/ALC classes, enrolling nearly **15,000 children**. Teacher training, distribution of learning materials, installation of cooling systems, and rehabilitation of **40 hub schools** created safe, inclusive learning environments. Together, these projects strengthened education access, promoted gender inclusion, and built strong coordination with PED, DED, and community Shuras.

### Health Portfolio (Baghlan & Paktia)

AABRAR expanded health services through rehabilitation and psychosocial support projects.

- In **Baghlan**, the Victim Assistance project provided **4,000+ beneficiaries** with physiotherapy, prosthesis, orthosis, repairs, psychosocial support, and disability awareness. Mobile clinics and fixed centers ensured access for war victims and persons with disabilities.
- In **Paktia**, WHO-funded rehabilitation services reached **2,349 beneficiaries** with prosthetic, orthotic, physiotherapy, and repair services. Additionally, **3,470 people** participated in awareness sessions, and six radio roundtables promoted disability rights. Both projects

significantly improved mobility, independence, and dignity for persons with disabilities, while strengthening community awareness and inclusion.

### **Protection & Reintegration Portfolio (Kabul, Bamyan, Daykundi, Ghor, Maidan Wardak)**

AABRAR, in partnership with UNHCR, implemented two major initiatives:

- **CO-PROSPER Project:** Delivered vocational training, small business incubation, renewable energy solutions, and community infrastructure (culverts, gabion walls, women & youth centers). Thousands of families benefited from improved livelihoods and peaceful coexistence initiatives.
- **PSN & Reintegration Support Project:** Provided **cash assistance, shelter support, winterization aid, and psychosocial services** to tens of thousands of vulnerable families. Over **12,000 individuals** received reintegration cash support, **13,700 people** winterization assistance, and **351 households** shelter support. Vocational training (midwifery, plumbing, cash-for-work) created sustainable livelihood opportunities, while **4,000 sessions** of protection monitoring and MHPSS addressed urgent psychosocial needs.

### **Overall Impact**

Across all portfolios, AABRAR's interventions in 2023:

- Enrolled over **25,000 out-of-school children** in safe, inclusive classrooms.
- Provided **rehabilitation and psychosocial services** to more than **6,000 persons with disabilities and war victims**.
- Delivered **cash, shelter, and winterization support** to tens of thousands of vulnerable families in the Central Highlands.
- Strengthened **community resilience and social cohesion** through infrastructure projects, awareness campaigns, and vocational training.

Despite challenges such as insecurity, administrative delays, and restrictions on women's participation, AABRAR's strong coordination with government departments, UN agencies, and community stakeholders ensured successful delivery of all projects. The 2023 portfolio reflects AABRAR's commitment to **education, health, protection, and livelihoods**, empowering vulnerable communities and promoting dignity, inclusion, and resilience across Afghanistan.

## **4 OVERVIEW OF AFGHANISTAN'S CONTEXT:**

AABRAR operates in an environment shaped by overlapping humanitarian, economic, and social crises. Afghanistan continues to face the long-term consequences of decades of conflict, political uncertainty, economic decline, and widespread social disruption. These challenges have severely affected public infrastructure, weakened institutions, and limited access to basic services, leaving millions of people vulnerable to poverty, displacement, and insecurity.

The changing political landscape following the withdrawal of international forces and the return of Taliban control in many areas has further intensified humanitarian needs and raised serious concerns regarding the protection of fundamental human rights, especially for women and children. Against this backdrop, the role of humanitarian organizations has become increasingly important. Through its interventions, AABRAR continues to support vulnerable communities by delivering essential services, strengthening local resilience, and contributing to social cohesion, peacebuilding, and community stability at the grassroots level.

## 5 LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION INITIATIVES

AABRAR implemented two major initiatives in partnership with UNHCR to strengthen protection, livelihoods, and community resilience for **returnees, IDPs, and host communities**.



Photo of Completed Green House in Naghlu Nawabaad Village, Sarobi/Kabul

- CO-PROSPER Project:** Focused on **livelihoods and community empowerment**, this project provided vocational training (mobile repair, mechanics, tailoring, solar repair), small business incubation, and renewable energy solutions. Community infrastructure such as culverts, gabion walls, boundary walls, and women & youth centers were constructed, benefiting **thousands of community members**. Solar packages and Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) improved access to energy and safe learning spaces, while psychosocial support and awareness sessions promoted peaceful coexistence and GBV prevention.
- PSN & Reintegration Support Project:** Delivered **cash assistance, shelter support, and psychosocial services** to the most vulnerable families. Over **1,000 PSN cases** received direct support, while **12,000+ individuals** benefited from reintegration cash assistance and **13,700 people** from winterization support. Shelter repairs and construction improved safety for hundreds of households, and vocational training (midwifery, plumbing, cash-for-work) created sustainable livelihood opportunities. Protection monitoring and MHPSS sessions reached **4,000 individuals**, addressing urgent psychosocial needs.

Together, these projects provided **life-saving assistance and long-term resilience support** in Bamyan. By combining **cash transfers, vocational training, infrastructure rehabilitation, and psychosocial services**, AABRAR strengthened community resilience, promoted gender inclusion, and supported durable reintegration for displaced populations.

### 5.1 COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS PROGRAMME RESPONSE– KABUL & WARDAK (2023)

AABRAR, in partnership with **UNHCR**, implemented the **CO-PROSPER** project from **January to December 2023** in Kabul and Maidan Wardak provinces. The project targeted **returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities**, aiming to reduce vulnerabilities, enhance protection, and reinforce resilience through **livelihoods, community infrastructure, and social cohesion initiatives**.



Photo of Solar Package Distribution to IDP in Kabul

The intervention was designed in line with UNHCR's global livelihoods principles (*provide, protect, promote*) and Afghanistan's SSAR/GoIRA policy framework for returnees and IDPs. Activities combined **vocational training, small business incubation, infrastructure rehabilitation, renewable energy solutions, and psychosocial support** to strengthen self-reliance and peaceful coexistence.

#### Activities & Beneficiaries

- Vocational Training & Business Support:** Over **100 men and women** trained in mobile repair, mechanics, solar system repair, tailoring, pickle making, and cloth sewing.

- **Entrepreneurship & Livelihood Assets:** Around **100 beneficiaries** supported through tuk-tuks, shops, fish farms, and small business incubation.
- **Community Infrastructure:** More than **10,000 community members** benefited from culverts, gabion walls, drainage systems, boundary walls, and pedestrian overpasses.
- **Community Centers:** **Two multipurpose Women & Youth Training Centres** established, serving several thousand community members.
- **Renewable Energy & Shelter:** **1,203 families** received solar packages; **62 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs)** installed in schools, benefiting **2,170 students**.
- **Greenhouses:** **Dozens of families** supported through communal greenhouse construction, strengthening agricultural livelihoods.
- **Psychosocial Support & Awareness:** Over **2,000 individuals** received psychosocial counseling and awareness sessions, including GBV prevention and community engagement.



Picture of Gandhi Afghani Cloth Sewing Center in Narkh LAS – Maidan Shahr-Wardak

### Key Achievements

- **2,600 direct beneficiaries** supported across IDPs, returnees, and host communities.
- **Vocational training and business incubation** enabled self-employment for men and women.
- **Community infrastructure projects** improved safety, access, and social cohesion.
- **Renewable energy and shelter solutions** expanded access to clean energy and safe learning spaces.
- **Psychosocial support and awareness campaigns** strengthened protection and inclusion.



Picture of the metallic shops for 10 vulnerable Returnees and IDPs in Narkh LAS – Maidan Shahr-Wardak

### Challenges

- Government collapse and banking crisis delayed installments.
- Security restrictions limited UNHCR staff monitoring access.
- Administrative delays in MoU approvals slowed implementation.
- Community disputes over labor hiring caused delays.
- Price fluctuations complicated budgeting.
- Restrictions on women's participation required Mahram accompaniment.

### Recommendations

- Strengthen coordination with government authorities to streamline approvals.

- Expand vocational training and business incubation for women and youth.
- Ensure flexible budgeting mechanisms to address market price fluctuations.
- Continue community-based infrastructure projects to promote peaceful coexistence.
- Scale renewable energy and shelter solutions to meet demand.
- Advocate for greater inclusion of women, with financial support for Mahram accompaniment.

The CO-PROSPER project successfully combined livelihoods, protection, and community infrastructure to support returnees, IDPs, and host communities in Kabul and Maidan Wardak. Despite political, financial, and security challenges, AABRAR's partnership with UNHCR delivered tangible results, strengthened community resilience, and promoted peaceful coexistence. Sustained investment and stronger government engagement remain essential to scale up these interventions and ensure durable solutions for Afghanistan's displaced populations.

## 5.2 ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS & REINTEGRATION SUPPORT – CENTRAL HIGHLANDS (2023)

AABRAR, in partnership with **UNHCR**, implemented the **PSN and Reintegration Support project** from **January to December 2023** across the **Central Highland Region (CHR)**, covering Bamyan, Ghor, Maidan Wardak, and Daykundi provinces. The project targeted **returnees, IDPs, and host communities**, aiming to reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen protection, and promote self-reliance through **cash assistance, shelter support, vocational training, and psychosocial services**.

The intervention was designed to address critical needs in a fragile protection environment, where displaced populations faced limited access to shelter, healthcare, livelihoods, and psychosocial support. Activities combined **direct cash transfers, vocational training, infrastructure rehabilitation, and community-based protection monitoring** to ensure both immediate relief and longer-term resilience.

### Activities & Beneficiaries

- **PSN Cash Assistance: 1,030 vulnerable families** supported with direct cash assistance to meet urgent needs.
- **Reintegration Cash Support: Over 12,000 individuals** assisted to reintegrate into host communities and cover basic needs.
- **Winterization Cash Support: More than 13,700 individuals** provided with fuel and clothing to withstand harsh winter conditions.
- **Shelter Support: 351 households** assisted with permanent, transitional, and repair shelters, ensuring safe living conditions.
- **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA): 1,014 individuals** supported to cover essential needs.
- **Cash for Work: 3,682 individuals** engaged in short-term employment, promoting resilience and community development.
- **Solar Packages: 446 households** received solar panels, improving access to electricity and enabling children to study at night.
- **NFI Distribution: 6,000 households** received solar lamps and NFIs; **1,800 IDPs** in Balkhab supported with emergency NFIs.
- **Midwifery Training: 80 women** enrolled in a two-year midwifery course to strengthen maternal health services.
- **Plumbing Training: 20 individuals** trained as professional plumbers, creating skilled employment opportunities.
- **School Rehabilitation: Boundary walls, latrines, and repairs** completed at Sang-e-Moom School in Daykundi, benefiting **1,570 students**.
- **Protection Monitoring & MHPSS: 4,000 sessions** conducted (2,000 protection monitoring, 2,000 psychosocial support), addressing GBV risks and mental health needs.

### Key Achievements

- **Tens of thousands of beneficiaries reached** across cash, shelter, vocational, and psychosocial support activities.
- **PSN network strengthened**, with referrals from government and community stakeholders ensuring timely assistance.
- **Vocational training programs** (midwifery, plumbing, cash-for-work) created sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Community infrastructure projects** improved safety and access to education.
- **Psychosocial support and protection monitoring** enhanced resilience and reduced GBV risks.

### Challenges

- **Government collapse and banking crisis** delayed cash disbursements.
- **Security restrictions** limited monitoring access for UNHCR staff.
- **Administrative delays** in MoU approvals slowed implementation.
- **Community disputes** over labor hiring caused delays in construction.
- **Restrictions on women's participation** required Mahram accompaniment, complicating logistics.

### Recommendations

- Strengthen **coordination with government authorities** to reduce administrative delays.
- Expand **vocational training programs** (midwifery, plumbing, cash-for-work) to reach more women and youth.
- Scale up **shelter and winterization support** to meet high demand in CHR.
- Continue **community-based protection monitoring** to identify vulnerabilities early.
- Advocate for **greater inclusion of women**, with financial support for Mahram accompaniment.

The PSN and Reintegration Support project provided life-saving assistance and long-term resilience support to vulnerable populations in Afghanistan's Central Highlands. By combining cash transfers, shelter rehabilitation, vocational training, and psychosocial services, AABRAR and UNHCR addressed both immediate needs and structural vulnerabilities. Despite political and logistical challenges, the project strengthened community resilience, promoted gender inclusion, and supported durable reintegration for returnees and IDPs. Sustained investment and stronger government engagement remain essential to consolidate these gains and expand support to other high-need regions.

## 6 EDUCATION INITIATIVES:

Education remains one of the most pressing needs in Afghanistan, with millions of children still out of school due to conflict, poverty, and lack of infrastructure. In 2023, AABRAR, in partnership with UNICEF and government education departments, expanded its **Community-Based Education (CBE) EIE programs** to reach the most marginalized children in remote provinces.

- Nuristan CBE Project:** Established **300 CBS/ALC classes** across all districts, recruited and trained **300 teachers (77 female)**, and enrolled **10,519 out-of-school children (OOSC)**. The project also repaired classrooms, rehabilitated hub-schools, and provided transport stipends to female teachers to ensure their participation.
- Laghman CBE Projects:** Implemented in two phases, establishing **426 CBS/ALC classes** across six districts, recruiting **444 teachers**, and enrolling nearly **15,000 OOSC**. The projects integrated teacher training, distribution of teaching and learning materials, installation of cooling systems, and rehabilitation of **40 hub-schools**.



Picture of Female Teacher Training in Nuristan



Picture of Back-to-School Campaign in Nuristan

Together, these initiatives strengthened access to education in underserved communities, promoted gender inclusion, and built strong coordination with PED, DED, and local Shuras. Despite challenges such as teacher shortages, supply chain delays, and weak infrastructure, AABRAR's education portfolio in 2023 significantly expanded opportunities for children in Nuristan and Laghman to learn, grow, and transition into formal schooling.

## 6.1 COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION (CBE) PROJECT – NURISTAN PROVINCE (2023)

AABRAR, in partnership with UNICEF and government education departments (PED/DED), implemented the **Consolidation and Expansion of Community-Based Education (CBE)** project across all districts of Nuristan Province. Running from **Nov 2022 to Dec 2023**, the project targeted **10,500 out-of-school children (OOSC)**, established **300 CBS/ALC classes (239 CBS, 61 ALC)**, and recruited **300 teachers (77 female)**. The initiative addressed the lack of hub-schools in remote areas, ensuring children in marginalized communities gained access to quality education. The project also integrated teacher training, classroom repairs, hub-school rehabilitation, and operational support (offices, vehicles, staff salaries, and printed materials) to sustain delivery.



Picture of School Improvement Plan (SIP) Assessment Activity

### Key Achievements

- **Education Access:** 10,519 OOSC (5,004 boys, 5,515 girls) successfully enrolled in CBS and ALC classes across 8 districts.
- **Teacher Support:** 300 teachers recruited through open competition; salaries and transport stipends provided to 78 female teachers to ensure participation in remote areas.
- **Capacity Building:** 14-day teacher training conducted for all teachers, covering pedagogy, child protection, psychosocial support, inclusive education, and classroom management. Knowledge improvement was measurable, with post-test scores showing an **89% increase**.
- **Infrastructure:** 300 classrooms repaired and decorated; 8 hub-schools rehabilitated with latrines, water facilities, solar systems, and safe learning environments.
- **Operational Support:** Three provincial/sub-offices established, eight vehicles rented for monitoring, staff salaries paid on time, and teaching/learning materials printed and distributed.
- **Community Engagement:** Back-to-school campaigns mobilized 350 community members, Shuras, and parents; strong coordination with PED, DED, and UNICEF ensured transparency and accountability.

### Challenges

- **Geographic Barriers:** Remote, mountainous terrain and poor road access delayed monitoring and distribution of materials.
- **Female Teacher Recruitment:** Cultural limitations and lack of transport restricted female teacher availability.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited budget reduced the scope of hub-school rehabilitation from 20 to 8.
- **Supply Chain Issues:** Delays in Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) distribution affected timely classroom readiness.

### Recommendations

- Expand **transportation and incentives** for female teachers to strengthen gender inclusion.
- Improve **supply chain management** to ensure timely delivery of TLMs and classroom resources.
- Scale up **school rehabilitation** to cover more hub-schools in high-need districts.
- Enhance **digital monitoring tools** for real-time tracking of activities and accountability.
- Continue **community mobilization campaigns** to sustain enrollment and reduce absenteeism.

The project significantly improved education access and quality in Nuristan Province. Despite geographic and cultural challenges, coordinated efforts between AABRAR, UNICEF, PED, DED, and local communities ensured smooth implementation, strengthened teaching quality, and promoted community engagement. Sustained collaboration and resource investment remain critical to consolidating gains and expanding opportunities for vulnerable children in Afghanistan.

## 6.2 COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION (CBE) EiE PROJECT – LAGHMAN PROVINCE (2023)

AABRAR, in partnership with UNICEF, implemented an earlier phase of the **Community-Based Education (CBE) EiE Project** in Laghman Province. Covering **Nov 2022 to Dec 2023 (14 months)**, the project targeted **7,000 OOSC** across six districts. **200 CBS/ALC classes** were established, with **200 teachers** recruited and trained for 14 days in pedagogy and safeguarding. To strengthen local oversight, **600 SMS members** were trained to supervise classes. The project provided cooling systems, classroom visibility kits, and distributed teaching and learning materials to CBS and ALC classes. Monitoring visits and complaint boxes were introduced to ensure transparency and accountability.



Picture of Solar Cooling System Distribution to CBE Teachers in Laghman

### Key Achievements

- **Education Access:** 7,000 OOSC enrolled in 200 CBS/ALC classes, ensuring access to education in underserved districts.
- **Teacher Support:** 200 teachers recruited on merit, trained for 14 days on pedagogy, child protection, and inclusive methodologies.
- **Capacity Building:** 600 School Management Shura (SMS) members trained for three days to supervise classes and strengthen community oversight.
- **Infrastructure & Learning Environment:** Cooling systems installed in 200 classrooms (solar panels, fans, air coolers), visibility kits distributed (flip charts, banners, CRM guidelines), and teaching aids provided.
- **Learning Materials:** Distribution of TLMs to 40 ALC classes and 200 CBS/ALC classes, ensuring students had access to essential resources.
- **Monitoring & Accountability:** Six central monitoring visits conducted; joint site visits with PED/DED officials; complaint boxes installed in 200 classes to establish child-friendly feedback mechanisms.
- **Community Engagement:** Strong collaboration with PED, DED, UNICEF technical extenders, and local Shuras ensured transparency and accountability.



Picture of TLM Distribution to Students in Laghman

## Challenges

- **Damaged Infrastructure:** Many schools in Laghman remained in disrepair, limiting expansion capacity.
- **Teacher Shortages:** Recruitment of qualified female teachers was constrained by cultural and geographic barriers.
- **Supply Chain Delays:** Distribution of TLMs faced logistical challenges, affecting timely classroom readiness.
- **High Demand:** The number of OOSC exceeded available resources, creating unmet needs in some districts.



Picture of CBE Class in Laghman

## Recommendations

- Expand **teacher recruitment incentives**, especially for female teachers, to strengthen gender inclusion.
- Improve **supply chain logistics** for timely delivery of TLMs and classroom kits.
- Scale up **infrastructure rehabilitation** to cover more schools and ensure safe learning environments.
- Strengthen **community monitoring mechanisms** (SMS, complaint boxes) to sustain accountability.
- Enhance **coordination with PED/DED** to align CBE classes with formal school systems for smoother transitions.

The project significantly improved education access and quality in Laghman Province. Despite infrastructure and resource challenges, coordinated efforts between AABRAR, UNICEF, PED, DED, and community stakeholders ensured smooth implementation, strengthened teaching quality, and promoted accountability. Sustained collaboration and investment remain essential to expand opportunities for vulnerable children and consolidate gains in Afghanistan's education sector.

### 6.3 COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION (CBE) EIE PROJECT – LAGHMAN PROVINCE (2023)

AABRAR, as lead partner with sub-partner ACDO, implemented the **Consolidation and Expansion of Community-Based Education (CBE) EIE Project** in Laghman Province with UNICEF funding. The project ran from **June 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 (19 months)** and targeted **7,973 out-of-school children (OOSC)** across six districts: Mehtarlam, Qarghayi, Badpakh, Alishang, Alingar, and Dawlat Shah.



Picture of AABRAR Deputy Director visiting CBE Class in Laghman

The initiative responded to Afghanistan's Level 3 humanitarian emergency, where millions of children had lost access to education due to conflict, poverty, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In Laghman alone, over **86,000 children were out of school**. To address this, UNICEF approved the establishment of **226 CBS/ALC classes (193 CBS, 33 ALC)**. AABRAR and ACDO recruited **244 teachers** on merit, trained them for 14 days in pedagogy, child protection, and inclusive methodologies, and mobilized **500 School Management Shura (SMS) members** to supervise classes.

The project also integrated infrastructure support, classroom visibility kits, cooling systems, and hub-school rehabilitation to ensure safe, inclusive, and sustainable learning environments.



Picture of AABRAR Executive Director visiting CBE Class in Laghman

**Activities**

- **Teacher Recruitment & Training:** 244 teachers hired and trained for 14 days on pedagogy, safeguarding, psychosocial support, and inclusive education.
- **Community Mobilization:** 500 SMS members trained to supervise classes and strengthen accountability.
- **Classroom Support:** Cooling systems installed in 226 classrooms (solar panels, ceiling fans, wiring, iron stands).
- **Visibility & Teaching Aids:** Distribution of banners, flip charts, CRM guidelines, and standardized kits to 226 classes. **Learning Materials:** TLMs distributed to 46 ALC classes and 226 CBS/ALC classes.
- **Monitoring & Accountability:** Five central monitoring visits conducted; monthly joint site visits with AABRAR, ACDO, PED, DED, and SMS representatives; complaint boxes installed in all 226 classes to establish child-friendly feedback mechanisms.
- **School Improvement Plan (SIP):** 40 hub schools identified and rehabilitated across six districts, including repairs, sanitation facilities, and infrastructure upgrades.
- **Head Office Oversight:** Four monitoring visits conducted by AABRAR senior management to ensure transparency and efficiency.



Class Visibility Provided to CBE Classes

**Key Achievements**

- **Education Access:** 7,973 OOSC enrolled in 226 CBS/ALC classes across six districts.
- **Teacher Support:** 244 teachers recruited and trained, ensuring quality instruction.
- **Community Oversight:** 500 SMS members actively engaged in supervision and accountability.
- **Infrastructure:** Cooling systems installed in all classrooms; 40 hub schools rehabilitated to improve safety and learning conditions.
- **Learning Environment:** Visibility kits and teaching aids distributed, creating standardized and engaging classrooms.
- **Monitoring:** Regular joint monitoring visits strengthened transparency and accountability.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Complaint boxes installed in all classes, empowering communities to raise concerns and recommendations.

**Challenges**

- **Damaged Infrastructure:** Many schools remained in disrepair, limiting expansion capacity.
- **Female Teacher Recruitment:** Cultural and geographic barriers restricted female teacher availability.
- **Supply Chain Delays:** Distribution of TLMs faced logistical challenges, affecting timely classroom readiness.

- **High Demand:** The number of OOSC exceeded available resources, leaving unmet needs in some districts.

### Recommendations

- Expand **teacher recruitment incentives**, especially for female teachers, to strengthen gender inclusion.
- Improve **supply chain logistics** for timely delivery of TLMs and classroom kits.
- Scale up **hub-school rehabilitation** to cover more schools and ensure safe learning environments.
- Strengthen **community monitoring mechanisms** (SMS, complaint boxes) to sustain accountability.
- Enhance **coordination with PED/DED** to align CBE classes with formal school systems for smoother transitions.

The project significantly improved education access and quality in Laghman Province. Despite infrastructure and resource challenges, coordinated efforts between AABRAR, ACDO, UNICEF, PED, DED, and community stakeholders ensured smooth implementation, strengthened teaching quality, and promoted accountability. Sustained collaboration and investment remain essential to expand opportunities for vulnerable children and consolidate gains in Afghanistan's education sector.

## 7 HEALTH INITIATIVES:

Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right, yet millions of Afghans continue to face barriers to essential health services, including limited access to healthcare facilities, shortages of trained healthcare providers, and inadequate infrastructure. In this environment, persons with disabilities and war victims are among the most vulnerable, often excluded from basic rehabilitation and psychosocial support.



Picture of Patient Receiving Below Knee Protheseses Service in Baghlan

In 2023, AABRAR expanded its health programming to address these urgent needs through two major initiatives:

- **Victim Assistance Services – Baghlan:** Funded by UNMAS/UNOPS, this project provided comprehensive rehabilitation services to more than **4,000 beneficiaries** through fixed centers and mobile clinics. Services included physiotherapy, prosthesis and orthosis provision and repair, psychosocial support, and disability awareness campaigns. The project built strong coordination with government departments and NGOs, ensuring referrals and outreach to persons with disabilities across Baghlan's conflict-affected districts.
- **Physical Rehabilitation Services – Paktia:** Supported by WHO, this 5.5-month initiative delivered advanced prosthetic, orthotic, and physiotherapy services to **2,349 beneficiaries** across 15 districts. Mobile clinics and fixed rehabilitation centers staffed by male and female experts provided equitable access to services. In addition, **3,470 community members** were engaged in awareness sessions, and six radio roundtables promoted disability rights and prevention.

## 7.1 PROVISION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE (VA) SERVICES – BAGHLAN PROVINCE (2023)

AABRAR, with funding from UNMAS/UNOPS, implemented the **Provision of Victim Assistance Services** project in Baghlan Province from **November 2022 to January 2023**. The project aimed to deliver **comprehensive rehabilitation and psychosocial support** to persons with disabilities (PWDs), particularly war victims, in one of Afghanistan's most conflict-affected provinces. Baghlan alone has over **7,000 registered PWDs in Pul-i-Khumri**, underscoring the urgent need for accessible services.

The project established both **fixed centers and mobile clinics** to reach vulnerable populations across districts. Services included **physiotherapy, prosthesis, orthosis, repairs, psychosocial support, and disability awareness campaigns**.

Beneficiaries also received **assistive items** such as crutches, knee and ankle supports, walking frames, and standing frames to aid recovery.

AABRAR coordinated closely with the **Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Department of Public Health (DoPH), Department of Martyrs and Disabled (DoMD), Department of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA), and Department of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR)**, as well as NGOs such as SCA, WAW, ACTED, ADWSO, and UNICEF social workers. These partnerships facilitated referrals, ensured community outreach, and strengthened service delivery.

The project was staffed by **21 professionals**, including doctors, technicians, physiotherapists, and administrative personnel. Equipment and raw materials were transferred from other provinces (Farah, Paktya, Nangarhar, Kabul) to support prosthetic and orthotic services.

By the end of the reporting period, the project had reached **4,058 beneficiaries** (1,586 women, 1,868 men, 257 boys, and 347 girls). This included:

- **1,096 physiotherapy sessions**
- **82 prosthesis cases**
- **137 orthosis cases**
- **170 repairs**
- **613 psychosocial support sessions**
- **1,960 disability awareness participants**



Picture of Patient Trying Below Knee Protheses made in AABRAR Physical Rehabilitation Center in Baghlan



Picture of AABRAR Technician Taking Cast of Patient for Orthosis in AABRAR Physical Rehabilitation Center in Baghlan

## Activities

- **Physiotherapy Services:** Delivered through fixed centers and mobile clinics, covering cases such as neck, back, shoulder, and knee pain, alongside gait training and exercise follow-up.
- **Prosthesis & Orthosis Services:** New cases cast and fitted; repairs provided for previous beneficiaries from AABRAR, ICRC, and SCA.
- **Psychosocial Support:** Peer-based counseling offered to PWDs facing stress and social exclusion.
- **Disability Awareness:** Awareness sessions conducted using posters, brochures, and manuals to reduce stigma and promote inclusion.
- **Monitoring & Quality Assurance:** Regular visits by supervisors and M&E officers across Baghlan districts, with beneficiary feedback collected to ensure service quality.
- **Key Achievements**
- **4,058 beneficiaries reached** across physiotherapy, prosthesis, orthosis, psychosocial support, and awareness services.
- **Targets exceeded** in physiotherapy (1096 vs. 801 planned) and disability awareness (1960 vs. 1002 planned).
- **Assistive devices distributed** to support recovery and mobility.
- **Strong stakeholder coordination** with government departments and NGOs, ensuring referrals and outreach.
- **Community trust built**, with beneficiaries praising service quality and requesting AABRAR to replace distant providers.

## Challenges

- **High demand vs. limited resources:** Over 7,000 registered PWDs in Pul-i-Khumri alone, but project capacity limited to 150 prosthesis cases.
- **Administrative barriers:** Suspension of activities by MoPH pending MoU approval; accreditation delays with UNMACCA.
- **Geographic constraints:** Many PWDs in remote districts struggle to access fixed centers.
- **Economic hardship:** Beneficiaries' weak financial status limits their ability to seek services outside Baghlan.

## Recommendations

- Secure **formal MoUs and accreditation** to prevent service interruptions.
- Expand **prosthesis and orthosis capacity** to meet high demand.
- Increase **mobile clinic coverage** to reach remote districts.
- Strengthen **resource mobilization** for continuous rehabilitation support.
- Enhance **community awareness campaigns** to reduce stigma and promote inclusion of PWDs.

The project provided life-changing rehabilitation and psychosocial services to thousands of vulnerable people in Baghlan Province. Despite administrative and resource challenges, AABRAR's strong coordination with government departments, NGOs, and community stakeholders ensured effective delivery. Sustained investment and expanded capacity remain critical to meet the overwhelming demand for victim assistance services in Afghanistan's conflict-affected regions.

## 7.2 EXPANDING PHYSICAL REHABILITATION SERVICES – PAKTIA PROVINCE (2023)

AABRAR, with financial support from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, implemented the project **“Expanding the provision and improving the quality of physical rehabilitation services to people with disabilities within the healthcare system in Afghanistan”** across **15 districts of Paktia Province** (Gardez, Zurmat, Sayed Karam, Ahmad Aba, Mirzaka, Aryoub Zazi, Ahmakhil, Laja Mangal, Samkani, Dand-e-Pataan, Shuwaak, Garda Seray, Wazey Zadran, Rohani Baba, Janikhail).



A beneficiary was provided with prosthetic services along with the elbow crutches for better mobility by aabrar mobile clinic

The project ran for **5.5 months (July 15 – December 31, 2023)** and aimed to deliver **prosthetic, orthotic, physiotherapy, repair services, and disability awareness** to persons with disabilities (PwDs) and war victims. Services were provided through **mobile clinics and fixed rehabilitation centers**, staffed by male and female expert physiotherapists and orthopedic technicians.

### Key objectives included:

- **Improving mobility and independence** of PwDs and war victims through advanced rehabilitation services.
- **Enhancing public awareness** on disability causes, prevention, and rights via community sessions and radio roundtables.
- **Strengthening stakeholder coordination** with provincial health departments, district health authorities, and the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MoMD).



AABRAR senior technician is providing prosthetic service to one of the beneficiaries through the mobile clinic in Paktia.

By the end of the project, AABRAR had exceeded its targets, reaching **2,349 beneficiaries** through physiotherapy, orthotic/prosthetic services, repairs, and assistive devices. Additionally, **3,470 people** were engaged in awareness sessions, and **six radio roundtable discussions** were conducted to promote disability rights and prevention.

### Activities

- **Physiotherapy Services:** Delivered to 1,500 beneficiaries, covering conditions such as fractures, polio, cerebral palsy, arthritis, spinal deformities, muscular dystrophy, and neurological disorders.
- **Orthotic & Prosthetic Services:** 434 beneficiaries received prostheses and orthoses, including devices for lower and upper limb amputations, spinal supports, and functional hand orthoses.
- **Repair Services:** 155 prosthetic and orthotic devices repaired to restore functionality.
- **Assistive Devices:** 260 walking frames and elbow crutches distributed to improve mobility.
- **Community Awareness:** 3,470 people reached through awareness sessions on disability prevention and rights.
- **Radio Roundtables:** Six sessions conducted with panelists including PwDs, doctors, journalists, and educators, discussing disability issues and responding to live audience calls.

## Key Achievements

- **Targets met or exceeded** in all service categories (physiotherapy, orthotics/prosthetics, repairs, awareness).
- **2,349 PwDs and war victims supported** with rehabilitation services.
- **3,470 community members engaged** in awareness campaigns, surpassing targets.
- **Six radio roundtables conducted**, strengthening public dialogue on disability rights.
- **Strong stakeholder coordination** ensured smooth implementation and integration with local health systems.
- **Success stories documented**, showing beneficiaries regaining livelihoods and independence through prosthetic and orthotic support.



AABRAR ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICIAN IS PROVIDING A BENEFICIARY WITH GAIT TRAINING AFTER BEING PROVIDED WITH PROSTHETIC SERVICES IN PAKTIA.

## Challenges

- **High demand vs. limited timeframe:** Needs exceeded the 5.5-month project capacity.
- **Geographic barriers:** Remote districts made access difficult for PwDs, especially those living below the poverty line.
- **Policy restrictions:** Female staff required Mahram accompaniment, increasing logistical and financial burdens.
- **Limited coverage:** Services confined to Paktia, while neighboring provinces (Khost, Paktika, Ghazni) also had urgent needs.



A group of people in one of the districts of Paktia were provided with public awareness regarding disability and causes by AABRAR

## Recommendations

- Extend **project duration and coverage** to neighboring provinces with high disability prevalence.
- Continue **mobile clinic services**, proven effective in reaching remote and impoverished communities.
- Provide **financial support for Mahram accompaniment** to enable female staff participation.
- Scale up **prosthetic and orthotic production capacity** to meet growing demand.
- Strengthen **community awareness campaigns** to reduce stigma and promote inclusion.

The project significantly improved access to rehabilitation services in Paktia Province, enabling thousands of PwDs and war victims to regain mobility, independence, and dignity. Despite geographic and policy challenges, AABRAR's mobile and fixed clinics, combined with strong stakeholder coordination and awareness efforts, ensured successful delivery. Sustained investment and expansion are essential to meet the overwhelming demand for rehabilitation services across Afghanistan's conflict-affected regions.

## 8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

### 8.1 EDUCATION PORTFOLIO (NURISTAN & LAGHMAN)

AABRAR's Community-Based Education (CBE) projects significantly expanded access to learning for out-of-school children in remote provinces.

- **Impact:** Over **25,000 children** (boys and girls) gained access to safe, inclusive classrooms. Teacher recruitment and training improved instructional quality, while rehabilitation of hub schools and provision of learning materials strengthened the education system.
- **Outcome:** Increased enrolment of girls, reduced child labour and early marriage risks, and improved community trust in education.

### 8.2 HEALTH PORTFOLIO (BAGHLAN & PAKTIA)

Rehabilitation and psychosocial support projects addressed urgent needs of persons with disabilities and war victims.

- **Impact in Baghlan:** More than **4,000 beneficiaries** received physiotherapy, prosthesis, orthosis, repairs, and psychosocial support. Disability awareness campaigns reduced stigma and promoted inclusion.
- **Impact in Paktia:** **2,349 beneficiaries** accessed advanced rehabilitation services, while **3,470 community members** participated in awareness sessions. Radio roundtables amplified disability rights messaging.
- **Outcome:** Improved mobility, independence, and dignity for persons with disabilities; strengthened community awareness and inclusion.

### 8.3 PROTECTION & REINTEGRATION PORTFOLIO (KABUL, BAMYAN, DAYKUNDI, GHOR, MAIDAN WARDAK)

Two major initiatives supported displaced and vulnerable families:

- **CO-PROSPER Project:** Delivered vocational training, small business incubation, renewable energy solutions, and community infrastructure. Thousands of families benefited from improved livelihoods and peaceful coexistence initiatives.
- **PSN & Reintegration Support Project:** Provided **cash assistance, shelter support, winterization aid, and psychosocial services** to tens of thousands of vulnerable families. Over **12,000 individuals** received reintegration cash support, **13,700 people** winterization assistance, and **351 households** shelter support. Vocational training (midwifery, plumbing, cash-for-work) created sustainable livelihood opportunities, while **4,000 sessions** of protection monitoring and MHPSS addressed urgent psychosocial needs.
- **Outcome:** Strengthened resilience of displaced families, improved access to shelter and livelihoods, and enhanced community cohesion.

#### Cross-Cutting Impact

- **Gender Inclusion:** Female teachers, midwives, and vocational trainees empowered to serve their communities despite restrictions.
- **Community Resilience:** Infrastructure projects (schools, culverts, community centers) improved safety, access, and social cohesion.
- **Psychosocial Well-being:** Thousands of individuals received counseling and awareness support, reducing GBV risks and stigma.
- **Sustainability:** Cash-for-work and vocational training created pathways for self-reliance, while community ownership of schools and centers ensured long-term benefits.

## Overall Assessment

In 2023, AABRAR's interventions reached **tens of thousands of vulnerable Afghans**, delivering life-saving assistance while building long-term resilience. By combining **education, health, protection, and livelihoods**, AABRAR strengthened community systems, promoted dignity and inclusion, and supported durable reintegration for displaced populations. Despite challenges of insecurity, economic hardship, and restrictions on women's participation, the projects achieved their objectives and created lasting impact across Afghanistan's most vulnerable provinces.

## 9 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:

### 9.1 EDUCATION PORTFOLIO (NURISTAN & LAGHMAN)

- **Teacher shortages** and difficulty recruiting qualified female teachers in remote areas.
- **Supply chain delays** in delivering textbooks, teaching materials, and classroom equipment.
- **Weak infrastructure** in hub schools, requiring continuous rehabilitation.
- **Community resistance** in some districts due to cultural barriers against girls' education.

### 9.2 HEALTH PORTFOLIO (BAGHLAN & PAKTIA)

- **High demand vs. limited resources:** thousands of registered persons with disabilities but limited prosthesis/orthosis capacity.
- **Administrative barriers:** delays in MoU approvals and accreditation suspensions disrupted service delivery.
- **Geographic constraints:** many beneficiaries in remote districts struggled to access fixed centers.
- **Economic hardship:** poverty limited families' ability to travel for rehabilitation services.

### 9.3 PROTECTION & REINTEGRATION PORTFOLIO (KABUL, BAMYAN, DAYKUNDI, GHOR, MAIDAN WARDAK)

- **Government collapse** and banking crisis delayed cash disbursements and approvals.
- **Security restrictions** limited monitoring access for UNHCR staff in several provinces.
- **Administrative delays** in signing MoUs and official documents slowed implementation.
- **Community disputes** over hiring of skilled/unskilled labor caused delays in construction projects.
- **Price fluctuations** for materials and labor complicated budgeting and procurement.
- **Restrictions on women's participation** required Mahram accompaniment, increasing costs and logistical complexity.

## 10 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS:

Strong partnerships were central to the success of AABRAR's interventions in 2023. Collaboration with **UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS/UNOPS, and UNHCR** enabled the organization to deliver education, health, protection, and reintegration services across multiple provinces.

- **Education partnerships:** Close coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE), Provincial and District Education Directorates (PEDs/DEDs), and local Shuras ensured smooth implementation of Community-Based Education programs in Nuristan and Laghman. UNICEF's technical and financial support strengthened teacher training, classroom rehabilitation, and provision of learning materials.
- **Health partnerships:** WHO and UNMAS/UNOPS supported rehabilitation and victim assistance projects in Baghlan and Paktia. Collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Department of Public Health (DoPH), and Department of Martyrs and Disabled (DoMD) facilitated service delivery, referrals, and accreditation. Partnerships with NGOs such as SCA, IRC, and GIHS enhanced technical quality and outreach.
- **Protection & Reintegration partnerships:** UNHCR's support enabled AABRAR to implement CO-PROSPER and PSN projects in Bamyan, Daykundi, Ghor, and Maidan Wardak. Coordination with DoRR, local authorities, and community elders ensured transparent beneficiary selection, effective cash assistance, and community ownership of infrastructure projects.

These collaborations ensured:

- Legitimacy and alignment with national priorities.
- Resource mobilization and technical expertise.
- Inclusive service delivery, especially for women, children, and persons with disabilities.
- Strengthened community trust, resilience, and sustainability of interventions.

## 11 FUTURE OUTLOOK:

Building on the achievements of 2023, AABRAR will continue to expand its role as a trusted partner in Afghanistan's humanitarian and development landscape. The organization's future priorities emphasize **sustainability, inclusion, and resilience** across all portfolios:

- **Education:** Scale up community-based education programs, with a stronger focus on female teacher recruitment, infrastructure rehabilitation, and digital learning tools to reach remote areas. Strengthen pathways for children to transition into formal schooling.
- **Health:** Extend rehabilitation and victim assistance services to additional provinces, expand mobile clinic coverage, and integrate telemedicine to overcome geographic barriers. Continue awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and promote disability rights.
- **Protection & Reintegration:** Broaden cash assistance, shelter support, and vocational training to reach more displaced families. Strengthen community-based protection monitoring and expand livelihood opportunities, especially for women and youth.
- **Cross-cutting priorities:** Deepen gender inclusion, enhance community ownership of projects, and leverage partnerships with government, UN agencies, and civil society to ensure sustainability and long-term impact.

AABRAR envisions a future where **every child learns, every person with a disability is empowered, and every displaced family finds safety, dignity, and hope**. Through innovation, partnerships, and community engagement, the organization will continue to empower vulnerable populations and strengthen systems for lasting change.

## 12 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AABRAR extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of our programs and initiatives in 2023.

- **Donors and partners:** UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS/UNOPS, and UNHCR provided vital financial and technical support, enabling us to deliver education, health, and protection services across multiple provinces.
- **Government stakeholders:** Ministries, provincial and district directorates, and local authorities offered guidance, coordination, and oversight, ensuring alignment with national priorities.
- **Community leaders and Shuras:** Their trust, cooperation, and active participation strengthened community ownership and sustainability of interventions.
- **Staff and volunteers:** Their dedication, professionalism, and resilience in challenging circumstances were central to achieving project goals.
- **Beneficiaries and communities:** Their resilience, hospitality, and engagement inspired our work and ensured meaningful impact.

It is through these collective efforts and collaborations that AABRAR was able to make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable children, women, men, and families across Afghanistan. We remain deeply grateful for the continued support and partnership that makes our mission possible.

## 13 CONCLUSION:

Throughout 2023, AABRAR demonstrated its commitment to **education, health, protection, and livelihoods**, reaching tens of thousands of vulnerable Afghans across multiple provinces. By expanding access to classrooms in Nuristan and Laghman, delivering rehabilitation and psychosocial services in Baghlan and Paktia, and providing cash, shelter, and reintegration support in the Central Highlands, AABRAR addressed both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term resilience.

Despite challenges such as insecurity, economic hardship, administrative delays, and restrictions on women's participation, the organization's strong partnerships with **UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS/UNOPS, UNHCR, government stakeholders, and community Shuras** ensured successful delivery of all projects. These collaborations strengthened community ownership, promoted gender inclusion, and built trust in AABRAR's interventions.

The impact of 2023 is clear: **children gained access to education, persons with disabilities regained mobility and dignity, displaced families found shelter and reintegration, and communities became more resilient and cohesive.**

Looking ahead, AABRAR remains committed to deepening its work in Afghanistan, scaling up inclusive education, expanding rehabilitation services, and broadening protection and livelihood opportunities. With sustained support from partners and communities, AABRAR will continue to empower vulnerable populations and contribute to building a future of **resilience, inclusion, and hope.**

### 13.1 KEY HIGHLIGHTS – 2023

- **Education impact:** Over **25,000 children** enrolled in Community-Based Education classes across Nuristan and Laghman; **700+ teachers** recruited and trained; **40 hub schools** rehabilitated.
- **Health impact:** More than **6,000 persons with disabilities and war victims** received rehabilitation, prosthesis, orthosis, physiotherapy, and psychosocial support in Baghlan and Paktia.
- **Protection & Reintegration impact:** Over **12,000 individuals** supported with reintegration cash assistance; **13,700 people** received winterization aid; **351 households** assisted with shelter support; **4,000 sessions** of protection monitoring and psychosocial counseling conducted.
- **Livelihoods impact:** **3,600+ individuals** engaged in cash-for-work and vocational training (midwifery, plumbing, tailoring, mechanics), creating pathways to self-reliance.
- **Community resilience:** Infrastructure projects (culverts, gabion walls, community centers, school rehabilitation) benefited **thousands of families**, strengthening safety and social cohesion.