

## The Shuhada Organization

The Shuhada Organization is a non-profit, nonpolitical and nongovernmental organization dedicated to the welfare and progress of Afghan people residing inside and outside Afghanistan, with the primary focus on the empowerment of women and girls.

Founded and directed by Dr Sima Samar, the Shuhada Organization, which was established in 1989, is the oldest Afghan non-governmental organization in the region and the largest Afghan woman-led NGO.

The Shuhada Organization operates 11 clinics and three hospitals in Afghanistan and Pakistan, all dedicated to the provision of healthcare to Afghan women and girls. These health facilities provide services in Bamiyan, Ghazni, Ghor, Wardak and Kabul provinces in Afghanistan, and in Quetta, Pakistan. In addition, Shuhada runs nurse, community health worker and traditional birth attendant training programs and reproductive health education projects. The organization opened a Science Institute in Pakistan in 2001 to train young women and men as physician assistants, science teachers and emergency medical technicians.

Dr. Samar has also been a leader for education for Afghan women and girls. The Shuhada Organization operates 71 schools for girls and boys in Afghanistan and three for Afghan refugees in Quetta, Pakistan; the schools educate 48,000 girls and boys. During the Taliban regime, Shuhada schools in Central Afghanistan were among the few academic girls' primary schools; the organization's first high schools were the only high schools that girls were able to attend in the country. The Shuhada Organization also ran underground home school classes for girls in Kabul. In addition, Shuhada conducts English and computer courses, income generation, and adult literacy programs for women in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Shuhada Organization also established the first and only shelter for vulnerable women in Afghanistan. The shelter provides a safe living and learning environment for women who have no guardians, are at risk for violence, are poor, and aren't able to earn a living. Shuhada built a colony of 80 homes in Bamiyan for widows and their families, who were homeless and were forced to live in caves since most homes in Bamiyan were destroyed by the Taliban.



Afghan Women's Hui :: [afghanwomenshui@yahoo.com](mailto:afghanwomenshui@yahoo.com)