

# EJAAD

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



*Embroidery design by Asma*

IMPACT through Pictures  
Learning Center,  
Embroidery Project, Health Projects,  
Rural Humanitarian Aid, TIFA  
Ejaad Student Service Club Updates





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## Women's Empowerment

- 43 Afghan women artisans crafted marketable embroidery items, with total sales of nearly \$14,000 returned to the women

## Education

- 50 children (Boys and Girls) and 20 adult women participated in literacy classes

## Community Development

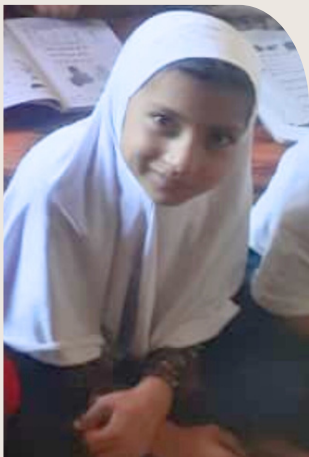
- 800 people had access to clean water from newly constructed wells

## Medical

- 350 individuals benefited from medical aid

## Humanitarian Aid

- 20 families (140 persons) received food packages



# Ejaad Impact 2023



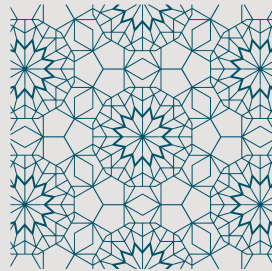
**This year, Ejaad was able to accomplish many humanitarian goals and take big actions**

**1000 +  
Beneficiaries**



# SUMMARY AND MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THIS YEAR DESPITE THE CHALLENGES THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE EXPANDED TO BE LEAD BY AFGHAN WOMEN EJAAD MEMBERS HENA, NAZIFA, SHAFIGA AND SHAISTA. THE GOALS IS TO GATHER SMALL GROUPS TO BETTER COMMUNICATE AND ADVOCATE FOR LEARNING AND LEADING THE 43 EJAAD LADIES TO FUTHER IMPROVE THEIR SEWING SKILLS, AND LITERACY AND COMPUTER SKILLS.



2023 the EJAAD board invited Educator Leah Newey and Doctor Anita Sgrignoli to join the board add their experience to the team. During our monthly meetings over 4 different time zones we have coordinated an increase in production of bags and new embroidery products with more sales in USA led by Dr. Anita.

In 2023 we made Ejaad USA an Official Non Profit Organization in the USA!

EJAAD has 8 new artisans whom joined in 2023 and are being trained to earn an income by crafting their individual and traditional designs.

Our members in Afghanistan would like to say thank you for this opportunity to share Afghan art and we feel so thankful and grateful to earn a much needed income In Kabul. - Hena





# Volunteer Activities in support of Ejaad initiatives

This year was truly an exciting year, full of events. This year, most of the events didn't have Covid restriction, so we were able to work more globally on events and activities lead by students and volunteers around the world.





# Explanation of current social situations and difficulties



From United States Institute of Peace  
November 2023

More than two years into Taliban rule, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world with some of the highest humanitarian needs.

The situation has shown some signs of stabilizing over the last year — but many Afghan households are still struggling to procure basic needs, and many women have been driven from the workforce altogether.

Unfortunately, financial troubles loom ahead, and the already beleaguered Afghan economy is now projected to decline.

Combined with population growth and the influx of thousands of Afghans forced to return from neighboring Pakistan, this is a recipe for increased humanitarian need over the longer term in the absence of major structural and political reforms.

## EJAAD Artisan Features

E J A A D TODAY



K Gul is a widow and she lives with her brother. She is 65 years old and she bought necessary things with the money she earned from the embroidery purses money. K Gul is well known for her 3D embroidery stitches.

Shayasta is a community member leader and is a mother of two children. She uses her income for her children. She feels fortunate she can stay at home and earn an income in her home.

Nazifa has a big family now; after her father passed, she had many new responsibilities at home. She has tried her best to support her family with her embroidery income.



# EAST ASIA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS (EARCOS) RICHARD T. KRAJCZAR HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Ejaad Club Japan was awarded the EARCOS Richard T. Krajczar Humanitarian Award because of the impact youth outreach and collaboration had with Ejaad in Afghanistan.

Students also learned so much about important issues women and children face and how they can make a difference through collaborative initiatives, educational outreach, social enterprise fundraising through new perspectives and understandings.



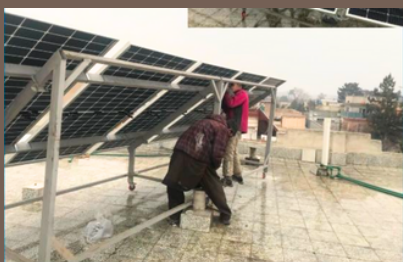
A portion of the grant funds were used to provide literacy and English language classes for 50 students and monthly salaries for 2 teachers.



Two water wells were constructed which will benefit 300 people in the rural village.



Sewing machines, irons and scissors were distributed among the EJAAD women who are making purses and other handicraft products; thus they are empowered and will generate economic benefits for their families.



We had many Ejaad club volunteers this year of all ages.

See Learning Center page for additional grant supported activities.



# Ejaad Japan, DAT, SOIS & Osaka YMCA Clubs



Anju at Osaka YMCA Osaka Japan



## Student initiatives Club time!



At SOIS we have a club meeting once a week on Friday. We have teachers and parent teaching us embroidery. The younger students enjoy crafting, and the older students help packing the bags handmade by Afghanistan women, and planning for events.

DAT (Disaster Assistance Team) an OIS home grown Grade 10 Non profit started and lead by Rikuto Hong, contributed 55,000 yen to the Herat Earthquake disaster fund run by Ejaad Afghanistan.





# BAKE SALES Crafts Sales



We plan a bake sale once a month, and all the profit goes to Afghanistan women to support them. We often sell brownies or cookies, or cupcakes. With the goodies, we sell bags handmade by the Ejaad Artisans.

Many students, teachers, and student's parents buy our goodies and bags. Thank you SOIS and YMCA community!

**This year, we held classes in Saito Nishi for young local children. the Ejaad club taught little kids arts and crafts.**

**The activities are inspired by artists and places like Afghanistan. We made Afghan head ornaments, tile art, small plaster sculptures, air dry clay, glazed clay bowls, foam core sculptures, textile art, wood art painting etc. Join in if you live in Osaka all the proceeds go to EJaad.**

**<https://reserva.be/artcompanions2022?openExternalBrowser=1>**

SAITO NISHI ART COMPANION EJAAD KIDS CLUB 2023





# Ejaad Japan with TIFA

Supported by NPO Toyonaka International Friendship Association (TIFA)

In 2023 total 1190 embroidery items were sent to Osaka, Japan, and \$11490 was paid to the artisans in total.



Soating the items just arrived



The logistics from Kabul to Japan fully recovered in 2023 and the packages arrived within 2 weeks.



## Exhibitions and Sales

TIFA has been active for 38 years and has a wide network in the community. With the help of TIFA, we exhibited and sold Ejaad's embroidery products at following shops, markets, events and online store 'creema'.

- \*Monthly market at Cafe Sapana
- \*Monthly Fairtrade Market at Zest, Kyoto
- \*SENTRAL STORE (pop-up store)
- \*Minpaku (National Museum of Ethnology) museum shop
- \*One World Festival
- \*Toyonaka International Festa
- \*Pink Ribbon Charity Bazaar
- \*Asian Charity Festival



Thank you for your support and purchase!





# First Exhibition in Tokyo

Time: July 30 - August 3

Place: Gallery Cafe George, Tokyo

Many friends, supporters and regular artists of the gallery came to see the Afghan embroidery.

Thank you for the warm encouragement and advises.



## Raising awareness of young generation

### Ryukoku University Hands-on Learning Program

Time: February 19, 2023

Place: Cafe Sapana & TIFA Office

Participants: 12 students, 2 teachers

<Program>

- \*Presentation of Ejaad Project
- \*Afghan lunch cooked by Afghan family
- \*Online discussion with Hena and Abdul
- \*Sorting of the embroidery items



This program was co-organized by Ryukoku University and EJaad Japan. It was a valuable hands-on experience for the students who were unable to go abroad due to Corona disaster.

### Lecture at Kansai University

TIFA was invited as a guest lecturer to introduce it's international activities.

Abdul joined online and explained current Afghan situation. About 360 students attended and we received a lot of questions.



High-school students came to learn about TIFA's international activities in Nepal and Afghanistan.

## Membership system

We started 'Monthly Support System' from January 2023. Now 27 supporters are registered, total 37000 yen every month. It's essential fund for the sustainable operation.

Join us as a  
Monthly  
Supporter!





# EJAAD CHINA



SOIS Service student Xi Gong did outreach to her previous Elementary school in Beijing. She created awareness about gender issues in Afghanistan and did outreach to inspire young learners in China. Students in China sold some of the Ejaad Embroidery 2289 Yuan! We hope more schools will join in our project. we will raise money for teachers salaries.



# EJAAD CHINA



Students at  
Daystar  
Academy raised  
\$1700  
for Ejaad

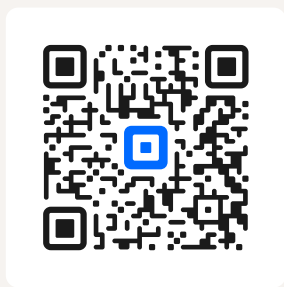




# EJAAD USA

EJAAD USA, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in March and granted tax exempt status by the IRS in May, 2023 (EIN 92-2831280). Our all-volunteer board of directors includes two Afghan citizens, one of whom has a background in economics and development, international educators, and a physician.

In our first year, Ejaad embroidery was exhibited at ten events in four different states. A total of 93 bags and 20 bracelets were sold, for a total of \$2300 in sales; all proceeds were returned to the women artisans in Kabul, Afghanistan. In addition, \$1602 in cash donations were received at these events, supporting the Ejaad Embroidery and Learning Center in Kabul.



We launched an online store  
in the United States  
**[ejaadusa.square.site](http://ejaadusa.square.site)**  
Donations may also be made on this site.

We are seeking student groups and civic organizations to collaborate with us in 2024. We welcome your creative ideas! Please join us!

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**P.O. Box 34**  
**Yorklyn, DE 19736**  
**[contact.ejaad@gmail.com](mailto:contact.ejaad@gmail.com)**



**[ejaadafghanistan.weebly.com](http://ejaadafghanistan.weebly.com)**



# EJAAD USA

In the summer, Ejaad co-founder Jennifer Henbest Calvillo made presentations about the Ejaad Afghan Project to groups in South Carolina and Arizona. Residents of Franke at Seaside retirement community (SC) and Saddlebrooke Quilters Club (AZ) were extraordinarily generous in their support! A presentation to the Rotary Club in Tucson was well received, with exploratory conversations about potential opportunities for partnering.



Donations for sewing machines

A beautiful handmade quilt was donated by Athena Taylor in Tucson Arizona, to be raffled at a fundraiser held in Japan





# HUMANITARIAN AID

## Food

In 2023, food packages were distributed to 33 families with children. Each family on average consists of 7 family members. Therefore, in total 231 people benefited, thanks to your generous support.

Humanitarian aid efforts were supported by a generous grant from The Mainichi newspaper (Osaka, Japan 200,000 yen) as well as additional individual donations.





# HUMANITARIAN AID

## Nutrition **NEW!**

### INTRODUCTION: AFGHANISTAN O-MALNUTRITION PROJECT



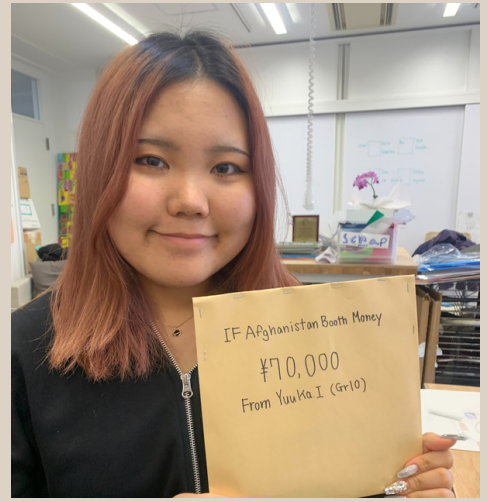
Hello, I'm Yuuka Iwaki from OIS 10th grade, and I am the organizer of this charity market. Here are some facts about the current state in Afghanistan:

- 97% of the people live off under ¥300 everyday
- 1 in 2 people are in severe food shortage
- Over 50% of the population are malnourished

This charity market is a fund raiser for helping the Afghan children and women who are in need of nutrition. The donation money would be used to purchase the BP-5/BP-100 biscuits and be directly sent to the local villages in Logar, Afghanistan



If you support us, you are contributing to reducing the hunger that many children face in Afghanistan. That is Humanitarian Aid.



OIS student Yuuka Iwaki is choosing to do her service project in collaboration with EJAAD. She did research, consulted with Mr. Abdul in Afghanistan, created educational posters and held fundraisers. To date, she has raised 70,000 yen (\$470) to provide nutritional biscuits to malnourished children and vitamin supplements to adult women.



# HUMANITARIAN AID **NEW!**



## *Livelihood Project*



Three families in Logar were distributed chickens (hens) as a trial to build a sustainable food source and means of livelihood. If successful, we will expand these efforts as another means of empowering women, particularly in the villages.



# EJAAD Learning Center



Women were able to gather at The Learning Center for several workshops to improve their embroidery and sewing skills, share designs, and enjoy one another's company.



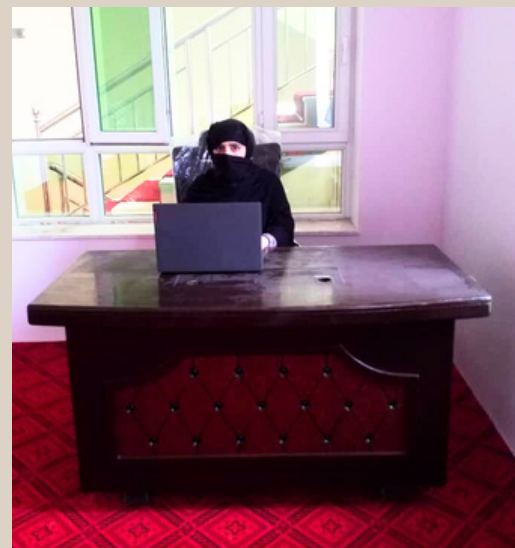
Literacy and language classes were taught at the recently completed learning center.



A very generous grant from EARCOS enabled EJAAD to purchase office furniture, a laptop computer and tablets so that the women can perform administrative activities and become more proficient in technology, working toward the long term goal of a self-sustaining EJAAD center.

The technology and internet access at the Learning Center will give the women the opportunity to pursue their individual educational goals.

A women's committee was formed to have more representation for organization, planning of activities and goal setting for the center.





# MEDICAL AID



In winter 2023 (Feb-March), EJAAD sponsored 3 temporary clinics in Hesarak village, Logar Province, where access to health care is limited. Dr. Roshan provided care and medications to treat such issues as malnutrition in children, anemia in women, calcium and vitamin deficiencies, epigastric pain and infections.



**A better equipped  
more permanent  
clinic is needed!  
More information to  
come... please help  
us to make this a  
reality!**

**THIS YEAR, EJAAD SPENT  
\$890 ON THE MEDICAL AID.  
THUS, 350 AFGHANS,  
MOSTLY WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM  
YOUR DONATIONS FOR  
MEDICAL AID**





THANK YOU  
CONTACT US AND JOIN IN

Thank you especially Volunteers

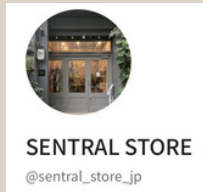


特定非営利活動法人  
**国際交流の会とよなか(TIFA)**  
Toyonaka International Friendship Association

Copine- KOBE Japan



KWANSEI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY



National Institutes for the Humanities

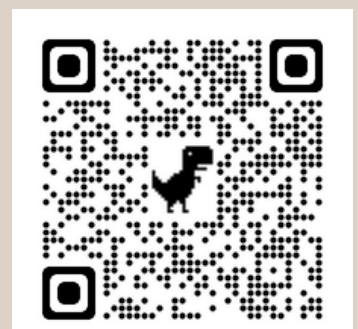
National Museum of Ethnology



KANSAI UNIVERSITY



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[ejaadafghanistan.weebly.com](http://ejaadafghanistan.weebly.com)







LOOKING AHEAD

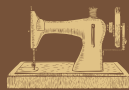




WOMEN OF  
E J A A D



THREADS  
of  
HOPE







# EJAAD CREATIONS



 @ejaadafghanembroidery

 @ejaad\_club.japan