

The Afghan Institute of Learning



Founded by women, managed by
women, empowering women

Annual Report 2005



Afghan Institute of Learning

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Mission and Vision of AIL	2
Financial Overview	2
AIL Timeline	3
The Year in Review	
Community Based Organizations	4
Education	5
Educational Learning Centers	5
Schools	6
Pre-Schools	6
Training.....	8
Teacher Training	8
Reproductive Health Training	9
Leadership, Management & Human Rights	10
Health Program	11
Gawhar Shad University.....	12
How You Can Help.....	13
Grantors, Partners, Supporters.....	13

Executive Summary

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As an Afghan women-led non-governmental organization (NGO) internationally recognized for excellence, the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) has much to celebrate as we review all that we accomplished in 2005. For example, we:

- Opened nine new Educational Learning Centers, including ones in Peshawar, Pakistan, to help earthquake victims, and in Bamiyan, Afghanistan.
- Expanded the Shakardara Learning Center and gave 31 girls their first opportunity to learn computer skills.
- Educated 15,452 students through our support of schools and Educational Learning Centers in Pakistan and in the Kabul, Herat, Parwan, Bamiyan and Jalalabad provinces of Afghanistan.
- Instructed 244 preschool students in our early childhood education programs in Pakistan and Afghanistan and graduated 34 students in Kabul to primary school.
- Provided 14 training workshops to our preschool staff.
- Offered 11 human rights, leadership and management workshops to 285 participants.
- Offered an International Leadership Training Conference to 23 Ministry of Women's Affairs staff from Kabul and Herat.
- Trained 1,206 teachers through pedagogy, logic and literacy seminars and workshops on administration, teaching methods and life skills lessons.
- Offered 14 reproductive health workshops in which 487 women and five men from Afghanistan participated.
- Provided counseling services to 31,583 women and children.
- Provided health services and education to more than 174,800 patients and reproductive health care to 14,900 women through our four health clinics, serving an average of 14,500 people each month.
- Graduated the first 15 students from the College of Math and Computer Science and eight women from AIL's post-secondary Nurse/Health Educator program at Gawhar Shad University.



In July 2005, we were honored with the 2005 Democracy Award of the National Endowment for Democracy at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award recognized my efforts and AIL's efforts to educate average citizens and local leaders about the basic values and principles of democracy, the rights of women and ethnic minorities, strategies for peace-building and conflict resolution and the importance of broad political participation.

Despite all our efforts and successes, there is still much to be accomplished if we are to realize our vision of a peaceful and prosperous future for Afghanistan. AIL is committed to supporting the Afghan people as they strive to rebuild their lives and their country. We will continue to build on our reputation for creativity, innovation, responsiveness, and dedication to meeting the health and education needs of Afghan women, children and communities.

We thank our partners, donors, and supporters for sharing our vision and making it possible for us to see the tremendous changes that we are making in the lives of others every day.

Professor Sakena Yacoobi
Executive Director

Mission and Vision of the Afghan Institute of Learning

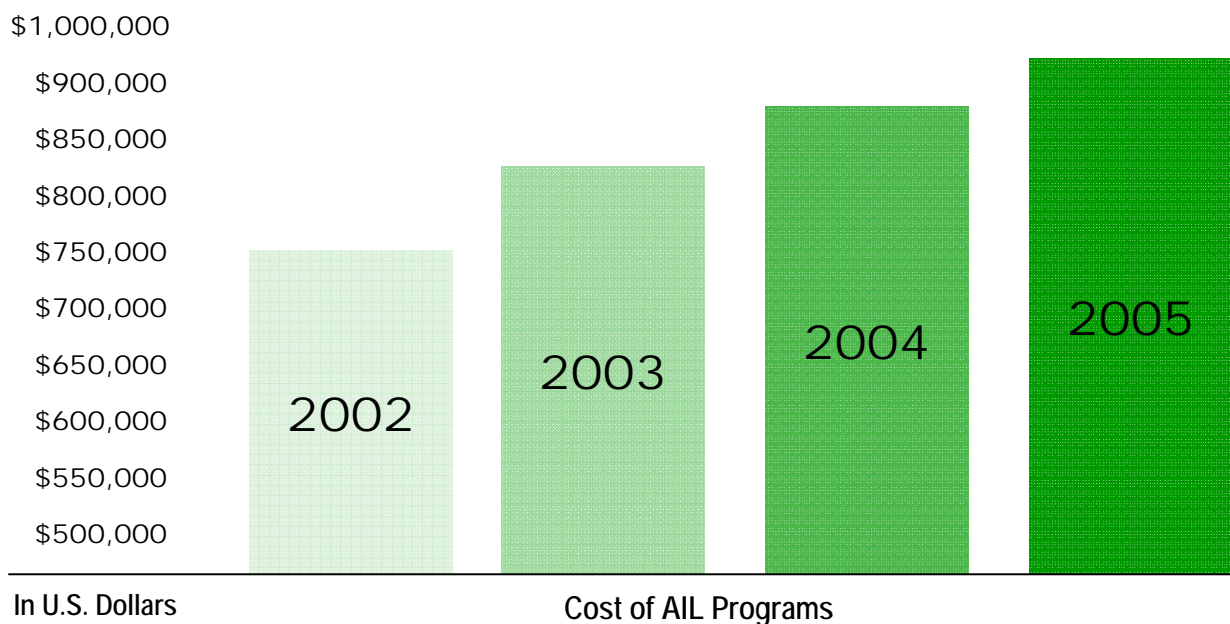
The Afghan Institute of Learning was founded in 1995 in Pakistan by Professor Sakena Yacoobi to help address the problem of poor access for women and girls to education and health services, their subsequent inability to support themselves, and the impact this lack of education and health has on Afghan society.

An Afghan women's non-governmental organization, AIL is run entirely by Afghan women and has played a major part in reconstructing education and health systems capable of reaching the women and children of Afghanistan – whether in refugee camps or in homes.

AIL presently has offices in Kabul and Herat, Afghanistan, and in Peshawar, Pakistan. We serve 350,000 women and children annually and employ 400 Afghans, over 70 percent of whom are women.

At AIL, we believe that educated people are the key to a future, developed Afghanistan. With that in mind, AIL works to empower all Afghans who are needy and oppressed by expanding their educational and health opportunities and by fostering self-reliance and community participation. It is our mission to lay a foundation for quality education and health for years to come and to provide comprehensive education and health services to Afghan women and children, so that they can support and care for themselves.

Financial Overview



A Timeline of the Afghan Institute of Learning

1995 ▪ AIL is founded by Professor Sakena Yacoobi
▪ Established and supported two schools for Afghan girls in Peshawar

1996 ▪ Established a Health Education Program in Peshawar, benefiting hundreds of thousands of women and children to date
▪ Began Technique Seminar workshops in Peshawar to train teachers in interactive, student-centered teaching
▪ Began preschool classes in refugee camps around Peshawar for about 500 children

1997 ▪ Began seven home schools for girls and income generation skills training programs for women in Herat, Afghanistan. Programs are offered in the homes of teachers
▪ Began first health clinic and four mobile clinics in refugee camps in Peshawar

1998 ▪ Designed seven teacher training seminars and ten workshops
▪ Began preschool education program and 25 home schools for 900 girls in Kabul

1999 ▪ Began a Health Education Program in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, serving 1,500 patients in mobile and central health clinics in Jalalabad
▪ Opened 13 home schools for 500 girls, a preschool for 65 children and two primary schools for boys and girls in Jalalabad
▪ Began six income generation skills training classes for women in Herat
▪ Established a computer training program for youth in Peshawar, Pakistan
▪ First NGO to offer leadership and human rights training to women in refugee camps in Pakistan
▪ Opened English language centers for refugees in Pakistan

2000 ▪ Opened new preschools in Kabul and Jalalabad
▪ Began underground health education program in Kabul with 2,000 women and children seeking assistance monthly
▪ Mobile and central health clinics conduct covert, door-to-door visits in Kabul

2001 ▪ Opened seven home schools in Logar, Afghanistan, for 285 students
▪ First NGO to open a Women's Learning Center (WLC) in a refugee camp in Peshawar
▪ Operated four WLCs in Pakistan for 2,000 women per month

2002 ▪ Registered with the Afghan government
▪ Opened sub-offices in Kabul and Herat, Afghanistan
▪ Broadened our Teacher Training curriculum to include seminars on Pedagogy, School Management, Literacy, Health and Kindergarten
▪ Opened a new WLC for refugees at Bi Bi Sumaia
▪ Began planning Gawhar Shad University to expand higher education opportunities for Afghan women
▪ Offered its first Nurse/Health Educator course for Afghan women in Peshawar

2003 ▪ Expanded WLCs to Mir Bacha Kot in Kabul and Sar Asia and Darb-e-Iraq in Herat
▪ Began building a permanent health clinic in Mir Bacha Kot
▪ Opened two new computer labs in Kabul and Herat
▪ Developed production sections for AIL's WLC sewing and drawing classes that began generating income to support AIL's programs
▪ Began new program to support and train grassroots, community-based organizations
▪ Conducted first traditional birth attendant training for refugee women in Pakistan
▪ Opened Gawhar Shad University with curriculum tracks in Nursing/Health Education, Education, and Math and Computer

Science
▪ Opened two home schools and began advanced classes in Mir Bacha Kot
▪ Developed eight new health and education training workshops
▪ Began publishing *Voice of Education* magazine
▪ Offered first teacher training seminars in rural Kabul province and Herat province

2004 ▪ Reached over 350,000 Afghans with urgently needed health and education services
▪ Developed 16 new life skills workshops
▪ Developed a seminar to train Ministry of Women's Affairs staff to operate women's centers
▪ Piloted a Women's Reproductive Health Training workshop
▪ Began supporting new community-based organizations in Parwan and Herat provinces
▪ Expanded WLCs to new locations in Karenda, Kalikhan, and Shakardara
▪ Dedicated the Mir Bacha Kot Health Clinic
▪ Expanded maternal/child health care at the AIL clinics including pre- and post-natal care and on-site baby delivery

2005 ▪ Opened nine new Educational Learning Centers (ELC) for women and children including one in Bamiyan
▪ Trained 1,991 teachers, government officials and members of civil society
▪ Held an International Leadership Training Conference for 23 Ministry of Women's Affairs staff
▪ Began supporting Imam Shish Nur Clinic in Herat, providing health education and health services to 174,800 patients
▪ Graduated 15 students from the College of Math and Computer Science and 8 women from the Nurse/Health Educator Program at Gawhar Shad University
▪ Educated 15,452 women and children through 34 ELCs
▪ Received the 2005 Democracy Award of the National Endowment for Democracy
▪ Supported earthquake survivors in Pakistan with emergency supplies and educational centers

2005: The Year in Review

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TAKE THE LEAD

A core component of the Afghan Institute of Learning's philosophy is the concept of community participation. We believe that when people are invested in the programs and opportunities being offered them, they are committed to seeing that the programs succeed. We also know that the Afghan people are a proud people who desire to be independent and self-sufficient in their daily lives. Our call for community participation empowers them to exert their independence and encourages them to reach their goals for a better future for themselves and their country.



That philosophy has guided our work over the years as we've developed Women's Learning Centers and supported schools, most of which were started by local people who approached AIL for assistance.

At the end of 2003, we began a pilot project called the Community-based Organization Support Project. Through this project, AIL began supporting four grassroots, community-based organizations with teacher training, management training, supplies, salaries and books. The program worked so well that we began to apply the

Community-based Organization (CBO) strategy to all of our educational learning centers, whether a Women's Learning Center, a school or an existing CBO. In the process, AIL has received numerous requests from other local organizations requesting small amounts of support and training so that they can establish centers in their neighborhoods.

Today we are working in four of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, with 34 active educational and health centers in 26 cities, outlying areas and villages within those provinces. Of the 34 centers, 29 are grassroots, community-based organizations. In

2005 we opened nine new CBOs in new areas. That's more than double the number of CBOs we started with in 2004.

With training, small amounts of funding, and in-kind support, AIL continues to prepare these organizations for self-sufficiency as an essential component of rebuilding Afghanistan. Afghanistan needs highly competent, well-trained Afghan professionals and organizations to provide quality educational opportunities to Afghans today and for future generations.

EDUCATION IS AT THE CENTER OF AIL'S MISSION

The Afghan Institute of Learning continues to be a leader in educating Afghan women and children. Our success is built on the use of interactive teaching methods, rather than the rote memorization teaching style that has been the norm in other educational settings in Afghanistan. We believe in involving our students in the learning process, listening to their ideas, encouraging them to ask questions and, in the process, helping them to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. While educating Afghans is the thread that weaves all our programs together, our core educational venues include:

Educational Learning Centers

In 2005, AIL began referring to all our Women's Learning Centers as Educational Learning Centers (ELC) because many of them were offering services to males as well as females. Women and girls continue to be the majority of our students (71% in 2005). However, access to educational opportunities has also been limited for males during the last few decades of war and civil strife in Afghanistan and we believe it is appropriate for us to serve them as well.

We opened nine new Educational Learning Centers in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2005. More than 15,900 students took advantage of the educational and skills training courses offered in our centers in 2005, including language, science and math, computers, art, health, and human rights. The centers also pro-

vide a fast track program for grades one through seven, as well as classes teaching income-generating skills including carpet weaving, embroidery, knitting, tailoring and even beauty parlor management.

That's right. At AIL's Jabre'el Center in Herat, we began offering an innovative new course to train women as beauticians so they can open home-based beauty parlors to earn their own income. This four-and-a-half-month course teaches women about makeup, hair cutting and styling and skin care. Our students have already begun earning money by charging fees for their services. On the heels of that success, we plan to offer the course in other ELCs and teach this lucrative skill to other Afghan women.

The ELCs have been especially popular among the Afghan people and every time we begin supporting a new center, we receive requests from neighboring communities who want centers of their own.

Group Counseling

The women and children who visit our ELCs often need help in solving family, social and economic problems. Many suffer with health and psychological problems as a result of war and economic hardship. To address their needs, AIL teacher trainers, teachers and doctors provide individual and group counseling services. In 2005, 126 AIL staff persons provided counseling to 31,583 women and children who are students and patients of AIL.

AIL's Educational Learning Centers make an impact in 2005

- The ELC in Shakardara offered a computer class for girls, giving 31 girls their first opportunity to learn computer skills.
- AIL opened the first ELC in the Bamiyan Province for 125 female students.
- We opened three new centers in Kabul city to help rural people who have had to leave their homes in the country to survive.
- AIL supported Rabia Balkhi, Salman Farse, and Etefaq Mosque Centers in Kabul city, as well as two new centers in rural Kabul province in the villages of Kalikhan and Farza.
- AIL established a new ELC called Zargoona Ana in the Peshawar area to help earthquake survivors whose homes were devastated by the damage. By December 2005, 227 women and girls were studying in this center, which offers tailoring, literacy, Arabic and English classes. AIL provided books, notebooks, paper, tailoring tables, sewing machines, scissors and measuring tapes to the new center.
- AIL's clinic in Peshawar has also begun to treat earthquake survivors who are suffering from diseases due to food deprivation and lack of basic life necessities.

Schools

In 2005, AIL supported 1,997 students in six refugee schools in Pakistan. Fifty-two percent of the students were girls.

AIL encourages all the schools and centers we support to move toward self-sufficiency. That's why we're so proud of our Somaia School in Pakistan. After more than nine years of assistance and training from AIL, the school was one of two AIL-supported schools to achieve self-sustainability in 2005. They have raised all of their funding and have sufficient managerial and resource development capacity to operate without assistance from AIL. Their achievement is a clear demonstration of how successful Afghan women-led organizations can be when they have access to training and seed funding.

Shaikhan Girls Home School has also found its independence, having been incorporated into the local government school program in

Mir Bacha Kot. When AIL opened this home school, many people were uncertain if it would be feasible to offer education for girls in Shaikhan. The success of the girls' home school and AIL's Educational Learning Centers in Mir Bacha Kot have changed the attitudes of the people there and now the community is in favor of offering education to girls in government-run schools.

Changing attitudes is an important part of improving access to education for women and girls in Afghanistan and AIL's programs do just that. We begin by working with community members to open small programs in safe locations with the support of community leaders. When these programs demonstrate success, local confidence builds in the programs and they become institutionalized so that girls can continue to benefit from classroom learning for generations to come.

In 2005, more educational opportunities for boys became available in Shaikhan and to students in Jalalabad as government schools opened all over Afghanistan.

Because of AIL's Shaikhan Boys Home School and Jalalabad schools, boys and girls in these communities are able to join local government schools at age-appropriate grade levels. Were it not for AIL's schools, these children would have been left out of the new government schools because they would have been too old to enroll in the first grade.

With many Afghan refugees in Pakistan repatriating to Afghanistan, AIL will not support as many refugee



schools in Pakistan in 2006. Like the students in Afghanistan, these returning refugee children are able to enroll in the newly opened government schools in Afghanistan at age appropriate grade levels and move forward in their education.

Preschools

AIL's preschool education program continues to set the standard in early childhood education for Afghans. Our preschool staff regularly hears about former students who go on to achieve high positions in primary school classes and about children who are able to skip grade one because of the education they received at AIL's preschool.

Preschool students range in age from three months to seven years. A small fee for preschool classes is charged to families who can afford it, while poor families are offered scholarships for their children to attend the preschool.

Our preschool curriculum includes language arts, secondary math, health, Islamiyat, sports, arts and crafts, story telling, role plays, patriotic songs and life skills lessons



on topics like peace and friendship. Some new subjects added in 2005 include radio, television, telephone, and fax as methods for learning information, as well as puzzles and vocabulary lessons to help the children develop critical thinking skills.

Students in AIL's preschool program also learn songs, poems and role plays to enhance their understanding of Afghan culture, traditions and values. The children enjoy performing the pieces at AIL events which enhances their self-confidence and self-esteem.



We make every effort to accommodate students with special needs because every child deserves the opportunity to learn. Classes in our schools and Educational Learning Centers have included children who are blind, those with Down's syndrome and children who have lost limbs in mine explosions. Seven-year-old Khalid came to the Kabul preschool unable to talk or process things very well. With the help of AIL's teachers, he now participates in class activities and is learning to speak. Needless to say, his family is thrilled with the progress Khalid has made.

Preschool highlights from 2005:

- AIL had 244 students studying in our preschools in Pakistan and in Herat and Kabul, Afghanistan.
- AIL began supporting a new Educational Learning Center in Herat, called Zainabia, which



has its own preschool education program serving 65 students.

- The Kabul preschool graduated 34 students to primary school in 2005.
- AIL provided 14 training workshops to the preschool staff in 2005, providing more formal, in-depth training to preschool teachers on individual topics.

Words of Thanks From Pleased Parents

"My son, Ahmad Modasir, was one of your preschool students . He learned many things including good behavior, good manners, reading, writing, speaking, etc. I would like to say thanks to the AIL office and to all the preschool teachers who helped my son. He is now in school and one of the most intelligent students in his class. He has the first position in his class and he doesn't have any difficulty in his subjects. We wish you all the best luck and success."

Ahmad's Mother

"My son, whose name is Samon, was your student. Now that he is in school, he is doing very

well. He enjoys learning and going to school with his friends. AIL has helped him to feel this way and to be smart. I would like to thank all the AIL teachers who helped my son a lot. I wish you all the best of luck."

Samon's Mother

"My daughter, Diana , was your student. [Now that she is in school], she has got the first position in her class. Thank you so much to all the AIL staff, Director, and PEP teachers who accepted many challenges to improve my daughter's education and ethics."

Diana's Mother

AIL TRAINING LEADS TO QUALITY TEACHERS AND LEADERS

TEACHER TRAINING

AIL trained 1,206 teachers in 2005 benefiting 36,180 students through pedagogy, logic and literacy seminars and workshops on administration, teaching methods and life skills lessons. The impact of these seminars and workshops on student learning is immediate and amazing. When teachers use the new methods, their students learn lessons quickly and thoroughly. Some students are able to learn to read in as little as three months, compared to the three years needed under old methods. Teachers are always eager for more training from AIL that will reinforce the new methods and help them build their subject matter knowledge.

Pedagogy Seminars

AIL offered eight 24-day technique seminars to 306 teachers, including 167 female teachers. This seminar is the foundation course for AIL's other teacher training activities. Seminar participants are modeled and taught simple techniques and new interactive teaching methods to provide teachers with an alternative to teaching through traditional dictation and rote memorization. These techniques include question and answer, brainstorming, role play, group work, discussion, hands-on activities and competition.

During the training, teachers engage in peer teaching to practice the techniques and conduct constructive, self-evaluations. Where possible, the participating teachers are visited by AIL staff in their classrooms and are assisted in applying what they learned in the seminar.

Our seminars train teachers on the characteristics of a good teacher, setting objectives, writing lesson plans, classroom discipline, teaching a variety of subjects, evaluating and encouraging students, psychology, testing, developing teaching materials and how to vary questions. They also practice lessons using different, interactive techniques for all subjects taught in grades one through six.

In the case where teachers have not yet been able to take the complete technique seminar, AIL teacher trainers provide shorter lessons on individual seminar topics one at a time. These short workshops can last one to two

hours or one to two days, depending on the needs and availability of teachers. During 2005, AIL offered teacher training methods workshops to 576 teachers.

Logic Seminars

During 2005, AIL trained 113 logic teachers how to teach this subject using interactive, student-centered methods. The curriculum for the Logic and Linguistics of Arabic 12-day Seminar was developed a few years ago by AIL's teacher training staff. Participants are taught to read Arabic phonetically by using interactive lessons so that they can, in turn, use the same methods with their students.

Teachers who participated in the logic seminar said, "This seminar was so beneficial and we have learned lots of things. All the topics were very interesting and the trainers' methods of teaching were also very good. I have learned lots of new methods from this seminar like question and answer, material and group work. I will use all of them during my teaching. We just want the seminar to last longer and we want such workshops all over Afghanistan. We all are so thankful to all the trainers who really worked hard. We really appreciate their work."

Literacy Seminars

At the request of the Ministry of Literacy, we offered two 12-day literacy seminars in 2005 to 79 literacy teachers employed by Afghanistan's governmental Deputy of Literacy in Kabul.

Team-taught by five AIL trainers using demonstration lessons, seminar participants included women and men ranging in age from 25 to 60 years. The curriculum was the same as that used in the Pedagogy Seminars, but applied to Literacy. All participants prepared lesson plans, objectives, and teaching materials and worked in groups to teach mini demonstration lessons using various techniques.

Administration Workshops

We also offered two administration workshops in 2005 to 65 school administrators, headmasters/mistresses, and principals of Afghan refugee schools in Pakistan. The first workshop — a six-day event — was designed to train principals on how to solve administrative problems in their

schools. The second workshop was conducted over two days at the request of the Afghan Consulate's Education Department in Pakistan to solve the problem of principals giving marks and making documentation for teachers and students who are leaving Peshawar for Kabul. The workshop addressed the characteristics, responsibilities and duties of headmasters and principals; transcripts for teachers and students; policies and duties of the Department; and certificates for teachers.

Life Skills Workshops

Sixty-seven teachers were trained in 2005 to incorporate interactive life skills mini-lessons into their teaching. AIL developed 16 short interactive life skills lessons on topics of peace, health, psychology and manners for various grade levels to teach their students important skills to improve their health and well-being. These topics were chosen in collaboration with teachers who helped us identify the greatest life skills learning needs of Afghan children.

Health lessons teach children how to prevent disease. Lessons in manners teach children ethics and responsibility. Peace and psychology life skills lessons help Afghan children, who have always known war in their short lives, to learn skills for living during times of peace, positive problem solving and coping with difficult feelings.

Curriculum Development

Our teacher training staff developed numerous new workshops, seminars, and curriculum materials to improve the quality of education in Afghanistan, including material in management, supervision, monitoring, leadership, peace education, life skills and reproductive health. Additionally, 14 AIL teacher trainers received training in peace education, management, monitoring and supervising.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING

In 2005, AIL offered 14 in-depth reproductive health workshops to 487 professionals in Afghanistan to improve the health and safety of Afghan mothers and babies during birth.

We developed the workshop to improve understanding of women's reproductive health concerns, especially during pregnancy and birth. Afghanistan has one of the world's highest maternal and child mortality rates and



many women are not knowledgeable about life threatening problems during pregnancy and delivery or are misinformed. Most women deliver babies at home with the help of illiterate traditional birth attendants. Women and their families often do not seek health care interventions for mothers and new babies until it is too late or are not able to seek health care because they are too poor or live too far away from the nearest health care facility.

Workshop topics include fertilization, problems during pregnancy, instructions for pregnant women, delivery, breastfeeding, nutrition and family planning.

Of all the participants trained in our health workshops last year, 244 were teachers who can pass on the lifesaving information that they've learned to their students during class. Short reproductive health messages are taught to adult women in all of AIL's clinics and during regular classes at AIL's Educational Learning Centers. By improving understanding of the health needs of women and babies during birth, danger signs during delivery, and how to prepare for a clean and safe delivery, the reproductive health workshop saves lives.

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

AIL believes that when women and men understand what it means to be a leader, how to manage work responsibilities and the value of our rights as human beings, great things can happen. That's why we work hard to offer a number of leadership, management and human rights training workshops to the women — and men — in our schools and centers. In 2005, AIL offered 11 workshops to 285 participants, including 253 women and 32 men. All lessons were taught interactively through brainstorming, group work and question and answer methods, with participants performing most of the activities.

Leadership Workshops

AIL offered five leadership workshops to 188 participants in 2005. Our leadership workshops provide culturally-sensitive training that enhances women's leadership skills, empowering them to participate in local, regional and global decisions. During the workshops, women use scenario-based materials to cultivate leadership skills that are horizontal, inclusive and participatory. They learn about the characteristics of a good leader, effective communication, examples of women leaders, human rights, and how to cultivate women's skills and talents. In the process, they are affirmed for their leadership roles as wives, mothers and teachers.

International Leadership Training

Very few women in Afghanistan today have sufficient leadership and management training to develop and implement urgently needed health and education programs for Afghan women. We believe it is vital that women receive this training and step into leadership roles in the reconstruction of their country.

In June 2005, AIL offered an International Leadership Training Conference to 23 Ministry of Women's Affairs staff from Kabul and Herat province to train them for leadership roles in developing and managing Educational Resource Centers.

Three AIL teacher trainers and two American trainers from the University of Delaware instructed the Conference using materials and curriculum developed by AIL



teacher trainers. Topics included characteristics of a good manager; how to establish a center; demonstration lessons for center classes; administration, bookkeeping, evaluation and report writing skills; community building and community action; asset mapping; and negotiation.

Management, Supervision and Monitoring Training

AIL offered two management workshops to 52 women leaders to improve their management and leadership skills. The workshops were offered over the summer at AIL's Kabul office and team-taught by AIL teacher trainers who developed the curriculum using group work and interactive teaching methods. Topics included the duties and qualities of a good manager, defining and solving organizational problems, planning, filing, finances and report writing.

In July 2005, we also offered a supervision and monitoring workshop to 15 women staff of AIL. They learned about the objectives for centers, policies, supervision, monitoring, curriculum, administration and conducting a two-day training workshop for center staff.

Peace Education Training

Three AIL teacher trainers participated in an intensive, month-long peace education training at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York in 2005 where trainers were empowered to promote peace through education in Afghanistan's classrooms. They learned about the benefits of peace, violence against women, human rights, conflict (group work), and security. They, in turn, organized two peace education workshops for 11 of their colleagues in Kabul to teach them what they'd learned.

"Before attending classes at the Center, I had difficulty adding things. Now, when I go shopping, I can easily add, multiply, and divide money and buy things without trouble. Also, now that I have learned how to read and write, I can dial, memorize and write phone numbers easily. This makes me enthusiastic about learning more and more."

Fahiza, a literacy student in AIL's Mahjooba Herawai Educational Learning Center in Pakistan

AIL'S HEALTH PROGRAM BRINGS HOPE AND HEALTH TO THOUSANDS

During 2005, AIL provided health services to 87,000 patients through its four health clinics in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and provided health education to 87,500 women and children through its clinics and educational centers. On average, 14,500 people (67% women and children) were served each month with health care and health education through AIL.

We added one new clinic during 2005 in a rural area of Herat Province, called Imam Shish Nur. Before AIL began supporting this clinic, it was in danger of closing due to lack of funding. Today the clinic is a lifesaving resource for 3,300 patients each month who have virtually no access to other health care services.

During 2005, we provided reproductive health care to 14,900 women, including pregnancy tests, pre- and post-natal care, baby delivery and family planning. Our clinics also treated women with reproductive health complications including breast infections,



post-partum hemorrhages, STDs and miscarriages.

AIL's stationary clinics offer a wide range of services depending on the needs of the communities served, including patient examinations and treatment, minor surgery, dental care, laboratory analysis, nutrition services, midwifery and more.

Each of AIL's clinics in Peshawar, Pakistan, and Jaghartan, Mir Bacha Kot, and Imam Shish Nur, Afghanistan, also provide mobile health services, visiting remote villages where women and children have difficulty accessing the nearest health facility. These clinics provide vaccinations, patient exams, wound and injury care and medicine.

AIL's Mir Bacha Kot clinic distributes health and hygiene supplies to mothers for their children, including shampoo, lotion, soap, baby powder, baby oil and prickly heat powder. Since most Afghan women deliver babies at home, the clinics also distribute birthing kits to expectant mothers to help them prepare for a clean, safe delivery. The clinics distribute contraceptives including condoms, DepoProvera, and tablets.

Health lessons on topics that range from asthma to drugs to nutrition and vaccinations are taught to individual patients and to small groups in each of the clinics.

GAWHAR SHAD UNIVERSITY TAKES LEARNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Last year was an historic one for AIL's Gawhar Shad University, which was founded at the end of 2002 in Pakistan.

In September 2005, the first 15 students graduated from AIL's College of Math and Computer Science after six semesters of study.

Five of the graduates were hired that same month. One is an administrator and computer teacher at Abasen University in Pakistan. Two are computer teachers at a University in Afghanistan. Another is teaching a computer course and the fifth is working for President Karzai in Afghanistan.

We also had 18 of our students leave to repatriate to Afghanistan or other countries. AIL was able to provide them with certificates documenting the courses they completed so that they can continue their studies after they leave.

Students attending Gawhar Shad University in 2005 numbered 164. About 51% of the students at the University's College of Math and Computer Science are women.

AIL's post-secondary Nurse/Health Educator training program also has many successes to report for 2005.

In April, eight more women completed this intensive, nine-month course in Pakistan, bringing the total number of graduates to date to 59.

Forty-two female students enrolled in our first nursing course in Kabul at the end of 2005. Students are learning anatomy, physiology



and the systems of the body.

AIL also continued its in-house, post-secondary program to train Master Teacher Trainers. Fifteen women studied to be Master Teacher Trainers in AIL's Kabul and Peshawar offices. Their studies include theoretical lessons and practical work under the supervision of experienced AIL Master Teacher Trainers. During 2005, four women completed their studies and became Master Teacher Trainers highly skilled at training teachers to use interactive, student-centered teaching techniques that are exceptionally effective for developing critical thinking and logical skills in students.

AIL's Master Teacher Trainers are working to train as many teachers as possible to use these skills and to improve their teaching. To date, 10,000 teachers have been trained by AIL.

Students in the College of Math and Computer Science are able to

take courses in Management, Web Publishing, Graphics, Software Engineering, Internet, Database, Operating Systems, Business Communication, Math, Psychology, Logic, Physics, History and English.

AIL was able to offer a post-secondary computer training seminar in Herat during 2005. Three experienced AIL trainers taught the five-day workshop in basic, intermediate and advanced levels with 29 participants.

The Afghan Institute of Learning published three editions of its magazine, *Voice of Education*, and distributed 3,000 copies of each throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan. Students, teachers, NGO-staff, government workers and others find the magazine's focus on health, education and current events a great forum for informed commentary on important issues in Afghan society today.

How You Can Help

The support of generous donors like you has made it possible for AIL to help hundreds of thousands of Afghan women and children over the last ten years. With this continued concern and generous financial support, we have been able to reach out to Afghans who have been victims of war, violence and poverty in practical and tangible ways. And we want to do more. Take a look at some of the major goals AIL is committed to achieving in 2006:

- Encourage the development of more community-based organizations
- Train teachers in urban and rural Afghanistan and improve education for thousands of children.
- Lend support to Educational Learning Centers that provide healthcare and education to thousands of Afghan women and girls.
- Continue to develop model programs designed to improve the health of women and children.

You can be a part of these exciting opportunities to help others around the world when you include AIL in your charitable giving plans for the coming year. Please send your tax deductible donation to:

Creating Hope International
For the Afghan Institute of Learning
PO Box 1058
Dearborn, MI 48121
United States

And check out our website at www.creatinghope.org/ail for updates on AIL's activities during 2006.

We are ever grateful for your willingness to help others through your support of AIL.

Partnering with AIL

The Afghan Institute of Learning would like to thank our grantors and supporters for partnering with us in 2005. Your critical resources, reliable advice, sound suggestions and caring, mentoring relationship with us is an invaluable gift to us. Our partners include, but are not limited to, the following companies and organizations:

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Women's Learning Partnership
Zonta International

We have also received donations from hundreds of individual contributors who wish to remain anonymous.

Contact Information

IN PAKISTAN:

G.P.O. Box 241
Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: +92-91-842308
E-mail: sakenay@brain.net.pk

IN AFGHANISTAN:

Karta-e-Parwan
Street #2, House #63, Dist. #2
Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: +93-702-843-26
E-mail: sakenay@aol.com

IN THE UNITED STATES:

c/o Creating Hope International
P.O. Box 1058
Dearborn, MI 48121
United States
Tel: (313) 278-5806
Fax: (313) 565-8515
E-mail: chi@creatinghope.org
Web Page: www.creatinghope.org/ail