



**SAKENA
FUND**



SAKENA FUND - ANNUAL REPORT 2021



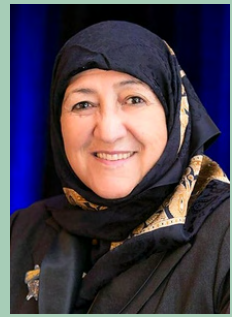
My dearest friends and colleagues, we have made it to a new year. As there is much uncertainty ahead; what I do know is how much change is possible when we stand together. Humanity is nothing when not united. Our compassion and kindness to others is what will bring peace.

I sincerely thank all those who support AIL— for your kindness, love and generosity.

It was a challenging year for everyone —

Insha'Allah (god willing) this new year will be better.

I pray for health, happiness and peace around the world.



Dear Friends,

The past year was nothing as I had expected. It seems we have been navigating through one crisis to the next; barely surviving each time. As we had only begun recovering from the second wave of the COVID 19 virus in Afghanistan, the U.S withdrawal created a devastating shock wave across our nation. There are not exact words to describe the kind of heart break and sadness I felt as I watched my beautiful country collapse into a state of panic, fear, and chaos. To watch years of progress be wiped away by violence, corruption and war. To see our people once again beaten back into oppression, and fear. Once again, I witness generations being lost to these atrocities. Afghanistan stands alone now, used and abused, and left to fend for ourselves. However, I believe in my country, and its people. We will one day prosper in peace but this will only happen through education.

AIL's trust within the communities is what has made us invaluable, no matter who sits in charge of the country. We have proven time and again that our work has held communities together, providing health, education and now life saving humanitarian aid. We are very grateful that our programs have not been disrupted, our children are still learning, our health clinics expanding to serve the overwhelming needs, and our staff providing urgent humanitarian aid to the thousands out of millions who are without food, medicine, water, and shelter.

While our mission to bring peace through education remains, nothing is possible without first ensuring the health and safety of our people. Afghanistan continues to face one of the worst humanitarian crisis' in the world with 23M facing starvation, homelessness and hopelessness. The effort to recover from the pandemic, floods and government collapse continues in 2022 – as does AIL's work to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

I am most grateful for the support and contributions of our valued donors and grantors, without whom our work would not be possible. You should know what an immense impact you have made in our ability to save our people, and support them through one of the worst times I have seen in the last 20 years. Thank you so much,

Dr. Sakena L. Yacoobi
Founder and CEO,
Sakena Fund and Afghan Institute of Learning

SAKENA FUND
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Contents

Awards and Speaking Engagements

Education

Healthcare: Clinics, Health Education and Workshops

Training

Peer Herat Disabled Center

Orphanage

Legal Aid Clinic for Women

Radio Meraj

TV Meraj

The Environment

Professor Sakena Yacoobi Private Enterprise

Professor Sakena Yacoobi Private Schools (PSYPS)

Social Media Presence

Financial Statement

AWARDS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Yacoobi was featured in several interviews and articles across the world in response to the current crisis in Afghanistan. Quoted in the Sunday New York Times in an article written by Nickolas Kristof, in letters directly to President Biden with co-writers such as Dr. Betty Reardon, writings shared by both Abigail Disney and George W. Bush. Dr. Yacoobi was honored to be part of virtual conferences/discussions held by Global Fund for Women, Women's Forward International, GPIW, and many more.

She had lectures at a few prestigious universities this year including University of Wisconsin, Harvard University, and Sweet Briar College. Although her travel/events were limited by the COVID pandemic, Dr. Yacoobi ensured that Afghanistan crisis remained priority in conversations and media across the globe.

OPINION
NICHOLAS KRISTOF

Education Poses an Existential Threat to Extremism

May 15, 2021

“The way to long-term change is education,” said [Sakena Yacoobi](#), a hero of mine who has devoted her life to educating her fellow Afghans. “A nation is not built on temporary jobs and mining rights, contractors and political favors. A nation is built on culture and shared history, shared reality and community well-being. We pass these down with education.”



Michelle Nunn  @MichelleNunn · May 19, 2021

...

This message is true for Afghanistan and beyond: “Maybe someday we will melt down some of these guns, trade them in for medicines, new Homeric epics. If we wish to get there, we must always start with education,”

[@SakenaYacoobi](#) via [@NickKristof](#) [@nytimes](#)





Skoll Foundation @SkollFoundation · May 20, 2021

"A nation is built on culture and shared history, shared reality and community well-being," says @AIL_ngo CEO Dr. @SakenaYacoobi. "We pass these down with education."

Educating girls is crucial in strengthening Afghan communities threatened by extremism.



Monika Jiang @MonikaJiang · May 16, 2021

"Education is an imperfect weapon against extremism, but it helps." @NickKristof on girls carrying hope in #Afghanistan ft. @SakenaYacoobi nytimes.com/2021/05/15/opi... #beautifulbusiness #girls #leadership #Taliban #extremism



Simon Marks @SimonMarksFSN · Aug 16, 2021

.@SakenaYacoobi is one of many very brave Afghan women. An extraordinary person.



Frida Ghitis @FridaGhitis · Aug 16, 2021

Message from my amazing friend @SakenaYacoobi in Afghanistan, on her work educating girls:

"ALL was started in secret and it will continue in secret if it must. While we are afraid, we are not defeated. Our mission remains the same. We will set up schools in every province"

[Show this thread](#)



Darpan Magazine @darpanmagazine · Aug 16, 2021

@AIL_ngo founder and #HumanRights rights champion @SakenaYacoobi has written a heart wrenching letter in relation to the crisis going on in #Afghanistan. Hear from her the first hand account of the chaos and help out in every way you can. #SaveAfghanistan



darpanmagazine.com

Human Rights champion Dr.Sakena Yacoobi pleas ... We need humanitarian supplies. The refugee situation we updated you with last week and the ...



GlobalGiving @GlobalGiving · Sep 2, 2021


"Our democracy may have fallen for now. Ideas do not disappear so easily. One cannot kill whispers on the wind. The Taliban cannot crush a dream. We will prevail, even if it takes longer than we wanted it to." — @SakenaYacoobi, Afghan Institute of Learning:



Statement by President and Mrs. Bush on Afghanistan

In times like these, it can be hard to remain optimistic. Laura and I will steadfastly remain so. Like our country, Afghanistan is also made up of resilient, vibrant people. Nearly 65 percent of the population is under twenty-five years old. The choices they will make for opportunity, education, and liberty will also determine Afghanistan's future. As Dr. Sakena Yacoobi of the Afghan Institute of Learning, which has opened schools for girls and women around the nation, wrote this week: "While we are afraid, we are not defeated." She added, "Ideas do not disappear so easily. One cannot kill whispers on the wind. The Taliban cannot crush a dream. We will prevail, even if it takes longer than we wanted it to."



George W. Bush Presidential Center 
@TheBushCenter



President and Mrs. [@laurawbush](#) have released a statement on Afghanistan. Read it here:



GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

bushcenter.org

Statement by President and Mrs. Bush on Afghanistan | Bus...
Laura and I, along with the team at the Bush Center, stand ready as Americans to lend our support and assistance in ...

10:55 PM · Aug 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App


Former President and First Lady Bush brought much attention to our plight by sharing our work in their official public statement.



George W. Bush Presidential Center



11,684 followers

6mo · 

"The Afghans now at the greatest risk are the same ones who have been on the forefront of progress inside their nation. President Biden has promised to evacuate these Afghans, along with American citizens and our allies. The United States government has the legal authority to cut the red tape for refugees during urgent humanitarian crises. And we have the responsibility and the resources to secure safe passage for them now, without bureaucratic delay. Our most stalwart allies, along with private NGOs, are ready to help." -- President and Mrs. George W. Bush on [#Afghanistan](#)



Raising Malawi @RaisingMalawi · Mar 30, 2021
 Committed to impacting the lives of millions of Afghans, @SakenaYacoobi is a renowned leader & CEO of Afghan Institute of Learning, supported by @Madonna. For 20+ years, Sakena has invoked change through education & health care for women & girls in Afghanistan #WHM



Federico Mento @fed_mento · Aug 22, 2021
 @SakenaYacoobi ha scritto una lettera a sostenitori e comunità internazionale all'indomani della caduta di #Kabul #Afganistan perché dobbiamo sostenere le organizzazioni della società civile afgana #afghanistanwomen @acri_ufficiale @link2007 @aics_it @CorriereBN

Non saremo sconfitte»

di **Sakena Yacoobi***

Dopo vent'anni, il nostro governo è crollato quasi senza resistenza. La costituzione per cui abbiamo lavorato così duramente e i diritti che le nostre donne hanno sacrificato così tanto per conquistare sono stati gettati dalla finestra, come scarti per i cani. Per fortuna il mio staff sta bene, grazie a Dio. Speriamo e preghiamo che la situazione resti tale. Le mie scuole sono ancora in piedi. Per adesso ci è stato detto che possiamo continuare, purché teniamo separati i ragazzi dalle ragazze. Nel giorno in cui i talebani hanno preso Kandahar, hanno piantato le loro bandiere nel cortile di tre delle mie scuole. I nostri centri di istruzione femminile restano aperti,



Attivista Sakena Yacoobi.

istruire e fornire uno spazio sicuro ai bambini e alle donne. Continueremo anche a offrire cibo, assistenza sanitaria e corsi di preparazione al lavoro. Se non sarà possibile in quegli



Le vendite di burqa sono triplicate ovunque.



Frida Ghitis @FridaGhitis · Jun 21, 2021
 @SakenaYacoobi calls on women all over the world to stand with the women of Afghanistan. "If we have the support of the international community," peace can be achieved



AIL held two international conferences this year, focused on women's rights in Afghanistan. Our conferences included honorable panelists and had larger audience's than any previous virtual conferences we've held.




Hannah Bloch  @HannahBloch · Aug 16, 2021 

Powerful message from Afghan educator [@SakenaYacoobi](#), who says Taliban visited her schools "the very first day [they] took control... AIL was started in secret and will continue in secret if it must. We know what to expect...One cannot kill whispers on the wind...We will prevail"



GU Women & Peace @giwps · Jun 16, 2021 

GIWPS's [@MelanneVerveer](#) will weigh in on US-Afghan relations at this [@CreatingHopeInt](#) event on Monday, June 21. Distinguished panelists also include [@SakenaYacoobi](#) [@FawziaKoofi77](#) [@ShukryaBarakzai](#) [@FaridNaheed](#) [@FaribaPajooch](#) [@patlakath](#) & Audrey E. Kitagawa. us02web.zoom.us/meeting/regist... 



Afghanistan's Truth, Hear our Voices:

120 Year Resilient Quest for Education & Peace

Tuesday, August 10th, 2021

9 A.M. PST - 12 P.M. EST - 5 P.M. BST - 8:30 P.M. AFT

Length of conference approx. 2 hours.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Dr. Sakena Yacoobi

Founder/Executive Director,
Afghan Institute of Learning & Creating Hope
International



Fariba Mehrjou

Cultural Manager
Professor Sakena Yacoobi Schools



Halima Salimi

Head of Afghan Women's Network,
Herat



Mable van Oranje

Founder & Board Chair, Girls Not Brides
Board Chair & Co-Founder, VOW for Girls
Chair Emeritus, European Council on Foreign
Relations
Activist & Serial Entrepreneur



Azizullah Royesh

Jabraeel Learning Center Manager,
Afghan Institute of Learning



Hafiz Amin

Lawyer
Legal Aid Center Manager,
Afghan Institute of Learning



Habiba Sarabi

Member of the Peace Negotiating Team of Afghanistan
Former Deputy Chair, Afghan High Peace Council
Former Advisor to Afghan CEO, Women & Youth Affairs
Former Bamyan Governor
Former Minister of Women's Affairs



Qais Anvary

Youth Club Manager
Administrative & Academic Assistant,
Afghan Institute of Learning



Dr. Fahima Mohktarzada

Health Manager & Coordinator,
Afghan Institute of Learning



Moderated by:

Maryam Farooq

Senior Coordinator of Education, Last Mile Health
Chief Content Developer, First GrAID



Prince Gideon Olanrewaju @LanreShaper · Aug 17, 2021

In these troubled times in Afghanistan, my prayers are with my role model/mentor @SakenaYacoobi, an inspirational woman who continues to uphold the tenets of education, particularly for girls regardless of all odds. May posterity be kind to you & Afghan Institute for Learning.



Dianne Murphy 🇺🇸🇦🇺🇮🇪 @ThinkReadTweet · Aug 2, 2021

Had the pleasure of hearing @SakenaYacoobi speak at @TeachFirst a few years ago. Dr Yacoobi is a woman who has worked at the coalface educating children in Afghanistan when it was very dangerous to do so. 🙏



The J. Jobe and Marguerite Jacqmin Sofa Lecture
“As Women Rise, so does the Nation”



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ASIA CENTER

- Kamal Ahmad @AUW_Chittagong
- Pashtana Durrani @LEARNafg
- @Shirinj reporter
- @SakenaYacoobi of @ail_ngo
- @Harvard's James Robson



Harvard University | Learning in Distress:
The Plight of Education in Afghanistan

EDUCATION

As always, AIL focused on expanding education in Afghanistan. We added 8 mobile literacy programs in Herat during the collapse of the government, allowing women and girls otherwise locked in their homes to continue their studies.

AIL opened two new schools this year, the communities are incredibly happy and grateful for them. We are thankful AIL had the ability to open new schools, even during a government collapse. Our most recent program is only two months old, and they are already thriving.



Graduating Kindergarten



Boys Class



Girls Class

With the Emirates requiring us to educate genders separately, we now have a new challenge in 2022 - to fund not one classroom per subject but two. We will also need to train and hire male and female teachers to teach gender segregated classrooms. This almost doubles our budget, but we see our teachers coming with dedication for the task. The children are so happy to be learning!



Tailoring is still one of our most popular classes. While the computer classes are skyrocketing in attendance.

In May every rural school and several of the urban ones faced increasing security concerns. Still, the teachers did not allow fear to prevent them from teaching, and parents brought the children to school. We had a week or two of low attendance after the school bombing in April, but parents trusted AIL to protect their children and we did so.

With the US confirming withdrawal and NATO also pulling out, Afghanistan's instability increased during June. The Delta variant of COVID swept through our communities like wildfire and the drought increased food insecurity dramatically. Our rural area schools all reported increasing difficulties with security.



"Hi. I am a student of mobile literacy class. I haven't gone to school for two months and this is a good chance for me to be hopeful after the school are closed. I was getting stressed at home all day. I was crying all the time for the last events. Fortunately this mobile class changed my attitude and I talk to a lot of girls of my age here. I learn technology and make communication with a lot of girls. I learn new skills that makes me feel happy. Thank you prof. Yacoobi."

Enrollment in our Women's Learning Centers continues every day, even during crisis Afghan women our determined to learn.

Mobile literacy became a heavy focus the last half of the year, with insecurity and then school closures preventing many women and girls from attending classes. We added eight additional programs this year to great success. We track where the students start when they enter the program, most of our students are in their late teens, early twenties and don't know the alphabet. By the end of the class, they can read at a fourth grade level. Our students provide feedback for us telling us how happy they are.

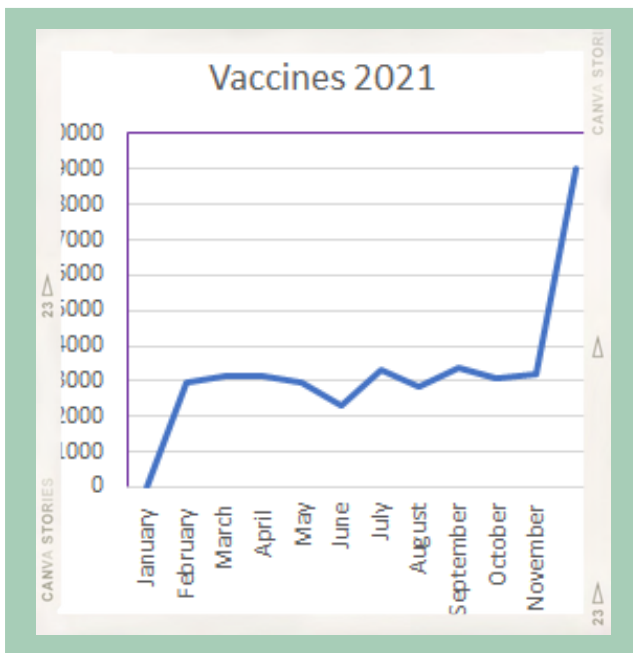
One of the worst restrictions imposed on women is keeping them at home. The isolation causes deep loneliness. AIL's mobile literacy classes do more than teach our youth to read, they keep our women and girls connected to each other.



HEALTH

Healthcare access is central to AIL's mission of an equal society, but this year brought us many challenges. The food shortage due to the drought only got worse when the government collapsed, leaving AIL desperately expanding into humanitarian aid faster than ever. Food is a critical need, and all of our clinicians are reporting increases in malnutrition, poor food or no food based illnesses and illnesses due to dirty water and poor sanitation. Our clinics have tent cities around them in both locations. AIL's urgency on this matter cannot be overstated.

Between January of 2021 and August, we saw an increase in child malnutrition across our facilities, with more children added each month to the ones under treatment from the previous month. We are happy to report success with our vaccine distribution, with another several thousand vaccines distributed. Person by person, we get the remote regions protected from diseases long controlled in the Western world.



AIL clinicians treated 491 illnesses in street children during 2021, 447 illnesses in our girls orphanage and 227 illnesses in our boys orphanage.

AIL has 4 major clinics, 5 clinics in Learning Centers, and 2 at an orphanage and 1 at a street children facility, with a total of 8.

AIL continues to monitor the health of children at all clinics by completing health screenings.

We saw increasing numbers of malnutrition in children in 2021, especially in girls, and illnesses caused by lack of food and clean water. Our need for food and supplements is critical



Internal refugee numbers continue to rise

By November 30th, AIL treated 187,146 patients in all of its clinics and provided health education to 44,698 people.

There were 521 healthy babies delivered, one set of twins, and 9,031 patients were vaccinated.

Just outside our buildings we see tent cities filled with mostly now widowed women with children, orphans and elderly.



AIL humanitarian aid became a huge focus in 2021, due to COVID19, severe drought and government collapse.





Afghanistan is facing an overwhelming need for healthcare. Our clinic lobbies are full daily with lines out the door.

HEALTH EDUCATION & WORKSHOPS

Circulating accessible educational information about the COVID-19 virus became a top priority for the AIL health education program. Our health staff regularly provide programming on health matters to the private station Radio Meraj, which serves the Herat area. The health education program produced posters and leaflets for patients, and distributed them in the community.



Total education classes on health and reproduction reached 49,465 families.



“The location of this workshop was very good because we are learning literacy and tailoring here, and now we have participated in this workshop. I demand to participate us in other workshops too.”



We held reproductive health training sessions for over 30,000 women in 2021. Some ran for four days, and each session had 35 women in it. Others are one on one education and still others are short, half day training sessions on specific topics such as child spacing. Our training sessions include information on birth spacing, hygiene, sanitation, pre and post natal education, and vaccinations. The civil war impacted our ability to hold workshops, as many people stayed in their homes or fled. We resumed holding workshops as soon as possible, so two of our four day training sessions took place in November. Our feedback was very positive. Our women are enthusiastic to learn and share that knowledge with other women.

HUMANITARIAN AID



Hot Food Distribution



Food Preparation



Winter Coats, Hats & Boots Distribution



Food Distribution



MI NOTE 9 PRO
RAD CAMERA

CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

In 2021, despite the upheaval, AIL still managed to train 150 teachers – 120 of them are women. Teacher training is the foundation of AIL's work, and without it, AIL would not have made progress.



Even as the civil war engulfed our nation, AIL staff still held training on human rights, peace education, democracy, leadership. As each month grew in violence and insecurity, we couldn't hold a training every month as we normally would. We had a break between June and August, with training starting again in September. These four day workshops help our people solve problems without violence and train the next generation of leadership on good governance.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT GROUP

Since its founding in 1995, one of AIL's major goals has been to empower through education. Afghan women, some trained by AIL, have gone on to earn master's and doctoral degrees at universities.

AIL realized that many of these women needed a greater understanding of leadership, and to develop leadership skills so they could rise to positions of higher authority and responsibility.

The Women's Empowerment Group (WEG) course is a year-long program. The aim is to assist the women to become more capable leaders who can have more influence in their community and the country. The program has created a network for women to share experiences and learn from each other.

The subjects they study include management, leadership, democracy, economics, COVID-19 virus, the outlook for peace in Afghanistan and the role of education in peacemaking, women's solidarity, education, culture, health, environment, communication, public speaking, and creativity. The groups feature prestigious speakers selected by the AIL Academic Advisor, who is proficient in communication. AIL graduated its *third* class this year, even after the upheaval of the last year.



Legal Aid Clinic for Women



We made great progress helping women this year, but as the civil war intensified and the return of the Taliban, we have had only one client. With violence against women increasing, we hoped to see a corresponding increase in clientele, but we have not.

There are also reports of women judges and lawyers fleeing due to men they jailed being freed by the Taliban. Those who cannot flee are living in fear, and no longer working. We will continue to offer legal aid to women without means, and hope the women begin to come again.



THE ENVIRONMENT

AIL ran a year long environmental campaign against single use plastics. Created by the youth club at our schools, the children collaborated with Radio Meraj to run public awareness campaign about recycling and plastic use. Each year AIL plants new tree's and holds meetings to discuss the importance of giving back to nature, and the importance of preserving nature.



ORPHANAGE

AIL treated a total of nearly 1200 orphan's, and street children for illnesses this year. Even amidst the war the children were still safe and cared for.



PEER HERAT DISABLED CENTER

AIL's Youth Club held a workshop on how to interact with and better assist disabled people to participate fully with the rest of society. The Youth Club found this very important information they did not have access to before. Even as AIL expands into new services, we meld the other ones into a better, more loving system. We have a total of 43 disabled residents we care for, educate, and provide medical services for. We provide staff at one nurse per 6 residents, ensuring quality, round the clock care.



Professor Sakena Yacoobi Private Enterprise: Radio Meraj & TV Meraj

We are excited to announce we have successfully launched TV Meraj by satellite! Our television station's programming holds great focus on health living, education and well being. We host several distinguished speakers monthly to lecture on morals, peace, forgiveness and the importance of family values. We stream segments on skills training, children's interactive programming to teach kids at home. TV Meraj is integral for local viewers, broadcasting cultural art, sports reports, leadership, economy, democracy, and much more for our viewers with live access world wide and on YouTube. The continued success of our radio station gives us great hope we will continue to grow in popularity in the region. We are grateful, that after review of our programming, new leadership has not disrupted our station.

The Radio Meraj Team



Radio Meraj provides segments on health, hygiene, news, sports, education, music and other topics that help our local listeners. We are one of the only approved stations as of the end of November, so our reach has drastically increased since the government collapse.

We have thousands of callers every month calling in to participate in our shows, ask questions and thank us for the information. Radio Meraj is still the most reliable source of news and education for the people in Kabul.



TV Meraj Field Reporting



Professor Sakena Yacoobi Private Schools (PSYPS)

This year, PSYPS educated 1158 students ranging from kindergarten to twelfth grade. While providing education, our teachers are also checking in on the wellbeing of the student, checking their daily logs, encouraging consistent attendance. These are all key factors to a strong education, as student feelings impact how they perform academically.



This was a stressful year for our students, so we encouraged our teachers to take extra steps to support them. Peace education is an integral part of all of our curriculums, so we also discuss with them peaceful resolution to problems, speaking respectfully to each other and the people around them. Foundational skills to create a more peaceful Afghanistan.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

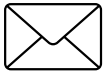
Sakena Fund
Financial Statement for the year-to-date
January to December 2021

		Actual
Income		
	Grants	\$ 1,310,084
	Donors	\$ 1,309,319
	Programs	\$ 13,772
	Other	\$ 2,532
	Interest	\$ 1,755
		<u> </u>
	Total Income	<u><u>\$ 2,637,462</u></u>
Expense		Actual
Locations		
	Materials & Supplies	\$ 115,449
	Printing & Duplicating	\$ 2,645
	Communications	\$ 27,377
	Site Rental	\$ 27,947
	Site Utilities	\$ 24,184
	Large & Small Equipment	\$ 4,948
	Maintenance	\$ 4,304
	Bank Charges	\$ 14,697
	Student Stipends	\$ 9,251
	Scholarships	\$ 5,935
	Grants	\$ 6,206
	Transportation	\$ 22,993
	Travel	\$ 11,878
	Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$ 706,842
	Fees/Conference Membership	\$ 325
		<u> </u>
	Subtotal Locations	<u>\$ 984,981</u>
Media Expenses		
	Materials & Supplies	\$ 8,342
	Printing & Duplicating	\$ 130
	Communications	\$ 11,755
	Site Utilities	\$ 17,328
	Large & Small Equipment	\$ 23,009
	Maintenance	\$ 1,563
	Bank Charges	\$ 524
	Governmental Fees	\$ 21,385
	Transportation	\$ 5,865
	Travel	\$ 1,059
	Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$ 39,567
		<u> </u>
	Subtotal Media	<u>\$ 130,526</u>
		<u> </u>
	Total Expense	<u><u>\$ 1,115,507</u></u>
		<u> </u>
	Net Income	<u><u>\$ 1,521,955</u></u>

**Includes all AIL income received in the U.S for the fiscal year only **

Afghan Institute of Learning

Kabul & Herat, Afghanistan



contact@sakena.org



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[Visit Radio Meraj](#)



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[Radio Meraj](#)



[Dr. Sakena Yacoobi](#)



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P.O. Box 1058, Dearborn, MI 48121

contact@sakena.org

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Online @ www.sakena.org

By check: payable to Sakena Fund

{Sakena Fund acts as fiscal sponsor for AIL in the USA}
