

# WHO WE ARE

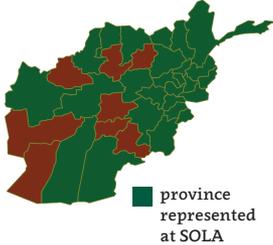
## The School of Leadership, Afghanistan

The School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA) is an Afghan-led private boarding school for girls, the first of its kind in Afghanistan. SOLA's mission is to provide Afghan girls a rigorous education that promotes critical thinking, a sense of purpose, and respect for self and others. SOLA is a recognized pioneer in education that prepares Afghan girls from diverse backgrounds to become compassionate, curious, and confident women leading a peaceful, prosperous, and united Afghanistan.

### A Diverse Student Body

SOLA takes pride in its profound commitment to geographic cultural, and economic diversity.

- ◆ 100% of SOLA students receive significant financial aid



- ◆ SOLA students currently represent 26 of 34 provinces of Afghanistan
- ◆ Nearly a dozen languages are spoken by our students

### A Selective and Rigorous Boarding School

Families choose SOLA for its academic rigor, nurturing environment, progressive instruction, cross-cultural exchanges, extensive training in technology, and deep sense of community. In Afghanistan, SOLA is unique in its boarding school advantages:

- ◆ With the substandard quality of education in remote Afghan provinces, this gives many girls their only opportunity for a meaningful education
- ◆ Students can focus on their studies, rather than managing the household for their parents and siblings
- ◆ Walking on street to/from school is often not safe
- ◆ A residential faculty provides round-the-clock guidance, mentoring and supervision
- ◆ Girls are exposed to rich extracurricular and leadership opportunities otherwise unavailable at home
- ◆ Intensive English language immersion promotes bilingualism

### The 6th Grade Advantage

*SOLA begins the boarding experience at sixth grade for several crucial reasons.*

- ◆ Starting early not only **narrows the significant gap between schools in Kabul and the provinces**, it also **increases the chances of girls successfully completing their schooling**. A girl who remains in school during adolescence is much more likely to marry and have children at a later age.
- ◆ As girls progress through their schooling, **there are fewer qualified teachers at each grade level** to teach more advanced course material in their home provinces.
- ◆ Early adolescence is **a time of profound cognitive, physical, and social development**

# OUR FUTURE

In 2008, SOLA opened the doors of a rented house in Kabul to four Afghan students who believed, as we do, that education is a key driver of societal change. A dozen years later, we are a school of more than 80 girls in grades 6-10, we have built a \$6 million endowment, and we are embarking on a 5-year journey to grow our enrollment and construct a secure and permanent campus in Kabul with the capacity to safely house more than 200 students, faculty, and staff.

## Five-year Plan

| SCHOOL YEAR | OPERATIONS  | CONSTRUCTION  |
|-------------|---|---|
| 2020        | ◆ Enroll more than 80 girls in grades 6-10. First 10th grade class in SOLA's history.                                     | ◆ Construct campus wall marking the new campus perimeter.         |
| 2021        | ◆ Enroll more than 90 girls in grades 6-11. First 11th grade class in SOLA's history.                                     | ◆ Begin construction of new campus.                               |
| 2022        | ◆ Enroll more than 100 girls in grades 6-12. First class of 12th graders graduates SOLA.                                  | ◆ Continue construction of new campus.                            |
| 2023        | ◆ Maintain stable enrollment in grades 6-12. Begin transitioning classroom and dormitory life to buildings on new campus. | ◆ Complete construction of new campus in mid/late 2023.           |
| 2024        | ◆ Expand enrollment with new 6th grade class of up to 30 students. First full year for grades 6-12 in new campus.         | ◆ New campus ready for full capacity use at start of school year. |

*We are agile actors in an unpredictable environment. In 2020, ongoing high-level political negotiations with the Taliban coincide with the spread of COVID-19. We remain unshakably committed to our community's security, and like many schools worldwide, we are meeting the challenge of coronavirus by moving our programming entirely online.*



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