



## Second Annual Report July 2021



**Najiba Foundation**

Learn | Dare to Stand Up | Give Back



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## The President's Message

The past year has been a difficult and challenging year for Najiba Foundation. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation's activities was halted for four months in accordance with the government guidelines.

Despite all the challenges, the foundation succeeded in achieving some of its most important goals in the past year, including the establishment of Najiba-Akados Computer Lab with the generous support of our partner (Akados Society). Our partners at Akados Society, based in Australia, are also working to support disadvantaged students by providing financial grants, scholarships, academic assistance, and other educational programs.

Najiba-Akados Computer Lab is established to provide local students in Daidkundi with an opportunity to learn digital literacy and computer skills. Establishment of this computer lab is a step toward breaking the geographic isolation that prevented students from accessing educational resources. The lab is not only functioning as classroom for learning computer skills, but it has facilitated online seminars/ workshops.

Moreover, the foundation has initiated numerous educational programs in Najiba Library throughout the past year. These programs include reading groups to promote the culture of reading in the local community, academic writing courses, TOEFEL preparation sessions, winter film exhibition events and educational tours for school students to visit Najiba Library. The Foundation has also developed its HR and Finance Policy during the past year. The current, annual report describes each of the mentioned achievements in details and their impact on the local community.

The foundation's plan is to continue to work in the local community and expand its programs and activities to other districts and villages. One of the foundation's main goal is to obtain a plot of public land from the government to build a permanent establishment for Najiba Foundation in Nili City.

Since the inauguration of Najiba Foundation in 2019, it has received tremendous support from many individuals and institutions. I would like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for your trust and support of this noble cause. The foundation is responsible and stands accountable to each and every one of you. We are committed to ensure that every book and every penny donated to the foundation is used effectively and purposefully. Finally, we humbly ask for your continued support. So far, your supports have brought light to lives of many, and it will be the key to our future success. Please support us, together, we can!

*Sincerely,*

*Hussain Rezai*

*Co-Founder and current President*

## Najiba Foundation

Najiba Foundation, registered with the Afghanistan Ministry of Justice, is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit organization that aims to promote education and access to learning resources for those living in remote and underserved communities. The foundation is a memorial for Najiba Bahar, whose life and dreams were curtailed by a suicide attack in Kabul on July 24, 2017.

## Our Vision

Najiba Foundation envisions a vibrant and inclusive society that is free of violence, where educational opportunities are equally available to all, and where cultural initiatives contribute to promoting education, peace, tolerance, and civic values.

## Mission

The mission of the Najiba Foundation is to empower local communities through facilitating and enhancing access to educational opportunities and resources as well as promoting cultural initiatives to promote peaceful coexistence and tolerance. The foundation's library is used as a space to encourage education, and promote civic values to replace misunderstanding, hatred, and violence.

## Our Goal

1. To spread knowledge and open-mindedness in the face of strong culture of misunderstanding and non-tolerance.
2. To promote education as the most reliable way for self-development and way out of poverty for rural and socially marginalized children.
3. To honor Najiba's struggles and legacy as a reminder to the huge sacrifices the Afghan people have made and to carefully study the past to shape a better future.
4. To empower local communities, especially young girls, through educational initiatives and cultural engagement.
5. To promote a culture of reading and debating different perspectives among school and university students as an antithetical to the formation and spread of rigid and extremist views.

## Programs and Activities

### 1. Najiba Memorial Library

Najiba Memorial Library is one of the main learning space programs of the foundation, which was inaugurated in Nili City on July 17, 2019. Currently, the Library accommodates more than 12,000 books, manuals, laws and research reports. The library has different programs which include, but not limited to, the following:

- Provide resources for research and study
- Promote a culture of reading and debating through weekly and monthly activities
- Organize reading, painting and writing competitions for school and university students
- Organize social and sports events for girls to encourage women's presence in public sphere
- Conduct oral storytelling sessions
- Operate a small computer lab for school and university students

### 2. Najiba-Akados Computer Lab

The foundation runs Najiba Akados Computer Lab in Nili City, which was inaugurated in April 10 2021. The Lab was established through generous support from Akados Society. The objective behind establishing the lab is to help local students improve their computer skills and digital literacy and also to play a role in helping break the geographic isolation as it continues to remain an insurmountable barrier for the student's education in Daikundi. The lab conducts weekly virtual session/online sessions for the students in the Center of Daikundi Province.



### 3. Educational Programs

Najiba Foundation develops and implements educational programs to empower the local communities, especially young women and girls. The main educational programs of the foundation comprise of the following:

- Capacity building trainings
- Educational consultancy services
- Academic seminars
- Cultural events

### 4. Najiba Library Women Volleyball Team.

Najiba Foundation support the Najiba Library Women Library Team since its establishment in September 2019. The aim behind this initiative is to fight against gender-based violence, taboos and discrimination and to ensuring women's participation in public spaces in the local community. 12 young, brilliant girls are volunteering in Najiba Library Women volleyball Team to play their role in peace, social coexistence and tolerance.



## The Foundation's Achievements

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the activities of the foundation. As we are writing this report, once again our educational programs are halted due to the third wave of COVID-19, months after a four-month halt during the first wave. However, despite all these unforeseeable circumstances, we are proud to have made the following achievements throughout this pandemic year:

### 1. Educational Programs implemented at the Najiba Library

**Reading Groups:** Najiba Library has formed several age appropriated reading groups in Daikundi province. The reading groups meet every week in the Najiba Library.



**Academic Writing Course:** The foundation facilitated a six-week academic writing course for students to improve their writing skills. The course has 10 sessions in which 25 students from different educational backgrounds/levels participated to improve their academic writing skills with the guidance of professionals and academics.



**TOEFEL Preparation Session:** The foundation conducted a three-hours IBT TOEFEL guide session for more than 50 students in Nili City.



**Winter Film Exhibition Program:** The foundation facilitated film exhibition events for students in the Najiba Library in the past winter. In these events, educational and motivational films were selected by experts and then screened for students in the Library. We would like to extend our gratitude to Charmaghze organization (Charmaghze is a Kabul-based registered non-profit organization provides mobile library services within Kabul, Afghanistan), for their cooperation, technical support and for providing the films.



**Schools Academic Tours to The Library:** To promote the culture of studying and encourage the students to use our resources, Najiba Foundation in collaboration with the schools in Nili City facilitated students' tours to the library and Najiba-Akados Computer Lab.



**Broadcasting the Najiba Foundation Educational Programs through**

**The Local Radios:** The foundation agreed with the local radio stations to broadcast some of the library’s educational and cultural programs to the local audience. This initiative helps us to expand and extend the coverage of our educational and cultural programs beyond the library room.



**Books donated to the Najiba Library:** The total of number of books donated to Najiba Library within this year reaches to almost 300 books. The details of donated books are listed below:

<b>Donated Books to the Najiba Library within a year</b>		
<b>No</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Saleem Sherzad	46
2	Ziafatullah Saeedi	3
3	Gahwara Group	12
4	Mosa Sebqat	63
5	Abbas Aagah	13
6	Mohammad Lagzi	60
7	Mohammad Merzai	20
8	Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization	10
9	Afghanistan Center at Kabul University	65
<b>Total of books donated to the Najiba Library within a year</b>		<b>292 Books</b>



**Financial donations to the Najiba Library:** during this year, we received 18,000 AFN financial donation from the Governor and Deputy Governor of Daikundi Province.

<b>Financial Donations to the Najiba Library</b>		
1	Fatima Akbari, Current Deputy Governor of Daikundi Province	3,000 AFN
2	Rashida Shaheedi, Current Governor of Daikundi Province	15,000 AFN
<b>Total Amount of Financial Donation to the Foundation</b>		<b>18,000 AFN</b>



## 2. Developing New Systems and Policies

**Developing Management Information System (MIS):** The foundation developed a basic MIS system which enables the foundation to register the library books and assets. The system includes, Library Registration Form, Foundation Membership Form and Task Management System.

**Human Resources and Finance Policy:** The foundation has also developed its Human Resource and Financial Policy during the last year.

## 3. Establishment of the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab

Najiba Foundation inaugurated the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab on April 10, 2021 in Nili, City, Daikundi capital. Najiba Akados Computer Lab was established with generous support from Akados Society. The computer lab is the only facility available to school and university students as well as local researchers and civil society.

Establishment of a computer lab was a key objective of the Najiba Foundation both to remember Najiba's legacy, who had studied Computer Science, and to promote digital literacy in the poverty-ridden community.

Equipped with 12 laptops, internet and a LCD monitor for presentation and virtual events, the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab will serve as a learning and exchange hub for students in the province. The Najiba-Akados Computer Lab can accommodate around 20 students at a time. Besides, 30 people can use the foundation's library located in the same location.

Najiba Akados Computer Lab connects the isolated Nili City to the outside world through hosting virtual and in person events. "The Najiba-Akados Computer Lab will not only serve as an educational center for the local community but will also try to inspire and help a new generation of young girls and boys in the community to carry on Najiba's legacy and pursue science education," said Maryam Hussaini, co-founder and current president of the Najiba Foundation. "This will be a game-changer for hard-working students, especially female students, in one of the least-developed provinces of Afghanistan," Ms. Maryam Hussaini said.

The establishment of Najiba-Akados Computer Lab was enthusiastically welcomed by the local community. Community members in Nili stated that the foundation has helped nourish their children's talents and creativity through its artistic and educational initiatives during the past two years and the new lab will help their children realize their bigger dreams. Since the lab's inauguration in April, 2021, more than 60 students have received training in computer programs such as Microsoft, MS. Windows and MS. Word.

<b>Expense for Establishment of Najiba-Akaderos Computer Lab</b>				
Expense Description	Date Purchased	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Amount
Chair	5/12/1399	AFN 1,025	20	AFN 20,500
Desk	5/12/1399	AFN 1,400	10	AFN 14,000
Speech Table	5/12/1399	AFN 3,000	1	AFN 3,000
Rubber for Desk	5/12/1399	AFN 7	40	AFN 290
Petrol for mixing oil with color	12/12/1399	AFN 50	5	AFN 250
Color	12/12/1399	AFN 150	5	AFN 750
Frame for banner inside the lab	5/12/1399	AFN 900	2	AFN 1,800
Board for desks	5/12/1399	AFN 793	10	AFN 7,930
Transportation from KBL to Daikundi	12/12/1399	AFN 7,000	1	AFN 7,000
Banner for computer lab	30/3/2021	AFN 1,850	1	AFN 1,850
Lenovo Idea Pad 3 Laptop	29/3/2021	AFN 42,156	12	AFN 505,869
Dell Keyboard	29/3/2021	AFN 928	12	AFN 11,138
Dell Mouse	29/3/2021	AFN 387	12	AFN 4,641
HP LaserJet Pro Printer	29/3/2021	AFN 15,470	1	AFN 15,470
Canon EOS 1000D Camera	29/3/2021	AFN 21,658	1	AFN 21,658
SanDisk Memory Card	29/3/2021	AFN 1,547	1	AFN 1,547

Surge Protector Power Socket	29/3/2021	AFN 619	6	AFN 3,713
Seagate External Hard Disk	29/3/2021	AFN 3,326	1	AFN 3,326
Samsung 43' HD TV	29/3/2021	AFN 21,658	1	AFN 21,658
Mini DC UPS for Router	29/3/2021	AFN 2,321	1	AFN 2,321
TP-Link Wireless Router	29/3/2021	AFN 2,785	1	AFN 2,785
Patch cord internet cable	29/3/2021	AFN 41	15	AFN 618
Transportation from KBL to Daikundi	30/3/2021	AFN 2,000	1	AFN 2,000
Stand for Internet/External	22/1/1400	AFN 250	1	AFN 250
Stand for LCD	16/1/1400	AFN 400	1	AFN 400
LCD stand installment cost	16/1/1400	AFN 200	1	AFN 200
Electric Meter	19/1/1400	AFN 800	1	AFN 800
Frames for name of the lab	19/1/1400	AFN 180	2	AFN 360
Refreshment cost for opening the lab	19/1/1400	AFN 770	1	AFN 770
<b>Total Expense of Computer Lab funded by Akademos Society</b>				<b>AFN 656,893</b>
<b>This does not include the internet monthly cost of the Najiba-Akademos Computer Lab</b>				





#### **4. Online Sessions through Najiba-Akados Computer Lab**

For students in Daikundi, geographic boundaries remain the biggest barrier for accessing educational resources. The Najiba-Akados Computer Lab will play a significant role in breaking the geographic isolation and connecting students to the world and educational opportunities beyond Daikundi Province. The Najiba-Akados Computer Lab conducts weekly virtual session/online sessions. So far, the Najiba-Akados Computer lab has facilitated online session on the following topics:

##### **Inter-cultural experiences of tourists**

Our first virtual session about inter-cultural experiences of tourists was carried out on May 3, 2021 for students in the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab. In this session, Mr. David Safari delivered his presentation on inter-cultural experiences of tourists from Austria to the students in Daikundi.

##### **Foreign scholarships and opportunities abroad**

The foundation conducted another virtual session about foreign scholarships and the opportunities of studying abroad on May 9, 2021. In this session, Mr. Kazim Ehsan delivered his presentation from Kabul to the students in Daikundi.

##### **How to tackle procrastination?**

In our online seminar on May 27, 2021, Ms. Nasrin Hashimi discussed the root causes of procrastination and how to tackle them down for students in Daikundi.

### **The Importance of Technology in Our Daily Life.**

On June 5, 2021, Mr. Mahbob Omeri talked about the importance of using technology and social media in our daily life for students in Daikundi.

### **An Introduction to Trauma Pedagogy,**

In June 10, 2021, in an online seminar, Mr. David Safari gave our students an 'Introduction to Trauma Pedagogy'. Mr. David helped our students understand what constitutes as trauma by raising critical questions on the topic. Such as what causes trauma? How does it impact our mental, emotional and overall well-being? How living in poverty and war-stricken society can exacerbate the harmful effects of trauma? How to address trauma? Mr. David also highlighted a few steps students can take to reduce their chance of experiencing trauma such as not comparing themselves with others, setting clear & realistic aims & planning their daily activities to achieving them to maintain a positive outlook towards life.





## 5. Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs)

### **MOU with Directorate of Information and Culture of Daikundi Province**

On 17 April, 2021, Najiba Foundation signed an MOU with Directorate of Information and Culture of Daikundi Province for mutual cooperation. Based on this MOU, the foundation teaches computer programs to the Directorate's staff to improve their computer skills, and the Directorate of Information and Culture provide space and rooms for the Najiba Library and Najiba-Akados Computer lab.



### **MOU with Akademos Society**

On March 23, 2021, Najiba Foundation signed an MOU with Akademos Society to exchange knowledge and share learning between the two organizations in common area of work and collaboratively work to implement cultural, educational, and capacity building programs.

### **6. The Najiba Library Women Volleyball Team.**

The Najiba Foundation support the Najiba Library Women Volleyball Team. The volleyball team trains twice per week. The foundation aims to hire a professional trainer for the volleyball team for improving their performance to help them participate in the regional volleyball tournaments.



## Appreciations

Najiba Foundation's works and achievements, among a number of other organizations, was recognized by G+ organization in Kabul. We would like to thank G+ organization for acknowledging Najiba Foundation's vital work in the local community.



The Provincial Directorate of Information and Culture in Daikundi province recognized and appreciated Mr. Jawad Frotan, the provincial manager of Najiba Foundation's contribution in promoting education in the community. Mr. Frotan along with other committed civic leaders, work hard towards building better communities through education and empowerment of youth in Daikundi Province. We at Najiba Foundation honour Mr. Frotan for his dedication and commitment to the cause of the foundation.





We are delighted that Ms. Rashida Shaheedi, the recently appointed governor of Daikundi province, paid a visit to the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab and the Najiba library. We look forward to working with the local government to run our programs more effectively & efficiently.



## Stories of Change

Daikundi is one of the poorest and under-developed provinces of the country that has not received scant attention from the central government in Kabul or its numerous international aid and development projects. Students in Daikundi Province, did not have access to public library and computer lab. In striving to serve the memory of Najiba, the foundation has provided thousands of reading options in the Najiba Library and also provided the resources for learning computer programs through establishing Najiba-Akados Computer Lab.

Zainab Hussaini is a student of Legan Educational Institute in Nili City. Ms. Hussaini is learning computer programs at the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab. "I had never seen a computer before, I am happy to be able to use the computer lab established by Najiba Foundation," Said Ms. Hussaini. She added, "I since I joined in April I learned MS. Windows and MS. Word at the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab. She also participated in the online sessions facilitated by the foundation. She explains, "virtual session is a new experience in our community, I have learned a lot." Ms. Hussaini asks the foundation's leadership to increase the number of online sessions.



Karim Suruosh, a graduate of Law from Naser Khesraw Higher Education Institute in Nili City said, "Najiba Library provided thousands of reading options for students in the local community. I am reading books at the Najiba-Library, and also joining Najiba Foundation's educational and capacity building programs". Suroush did not know how to use a computer, but since joining the computer lab, he learned how to use MS. Windows and MS.



## **The Year Ahead: The Foundation's Plan for 2021**

Despite COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation succeeded in achieving most of its objective for last year (July 2020- July 2021). With two years of experience in working for and within the community, now we have a better understanding of the challenges, opportunities and demands of the local community. The lessons learned in the past year help us to better plan our future programs and implement the programs in an effective way. We will focus on the following programs for the next year:

### **1. Improving and Expanding Educational Programs**

Improving the quality of our educational and capacity building programs is a priority for the foundation. Based on the lessons learned within the past year, the quality of our programs will be improved. The foundation also continues the implementation of its educational and capacity building focused programs for the students in the local community.

## 2. Providing Resources

The foundation works to provide more resources for the library and computer lab and equip both spaces with the required equipment.

## 3. Improving financial system

Improving the foundation's financial system will be another area of our focus for the next year. We would like to ensure that the foundation operates based on a sound, robust and concise financial system.

## 4. Ensuring Sustainability

Sustainability of the Najiba Foundation is still a top priority for us and within the next year, we will examine different options to ensure the sustainability of our work. Expanding the computer lab will help us to generate some income to sustain our programs.

The foundation is still requesting a piece of land from the government to build the permanent building of the Foundation/Library in Nili. We will process our request and be as persuasive as possible to make this happen.



**Thank You Note**

Najiba Foundation would like to thank all institutions and individuals especially those who donated and supported the Foundation in establishing the Najiba-Akados Computer Lab and those who supported the Najiba Library. Thank you!

- To our partners
- To individuals donating funds
- To institutions donating books
- To individuals donating books
- To individuals providing technical support
- To our volunteers
- To our guest speakers

**Annexes: Annex (1): Details of Najiba Foundation’s Expenditures from 17 July 2020 to 17 July 2021**

Salary for 12 Months	105,000
New License from the Ministry of Justice	10,000
The Volleyball Team Saloon Fee/Cost	15,000
Renewal of the Website Domain and Host	4,700
Carpet	4,020
Electric equipment (lamp and cable)	2,800
Transportation and Taxi	1,000
Oil Gas for Heating the Library	976
Loudspeaker	500
Repair, Maintenance and Installment Cost	1,600
Refreshment	400
Stationary and Green board	490
<b>Total Expenditures of the Najiba Foundation in one Year</b>	<b>146,486 AFN</b>

## **Special Thanks!**

The production of this report was made possible by a dedicated but humble team. The Foundation expresses its deepest gratitude to Mohammad Reza Qorbani for the design and layout, and to Mohammad Raja and Aaman Sadaqat for permitting us to use their photos.

The latest version of this document is available on the Najiba Foundation website at [najibafoundation.org](http://najibafoundation.org). For additional information or feedback on this annual report, write to us at [contact@najibafoundation.org](mailto:contact@najibafoundation.org)





Let's Make Najiba Foundation a leading education organization.

**Get Involved**

Be a Member of the Team

Be a Volunteer

Be an Advocate