



**AFGHAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES**



**AFGHAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020**

FROM ISOLATION TO FULL PARTICIPATION

MESSAGE FROM ED AND PRESIDENT 2019 - 2020

This busy year at AWO saw us ending our 3-year cycle of IRCC-funded projects. Our generous funders and the dedicated work of AWO staff and volunteers enabled us to touch the lives of thousands of refugees and newcomers with unique settlement needs through our gender-sensitive, culture- and language-specific, settlement services. AWO is pleased to have renewed and strengthened our strategic plan and submitted a 5-year project proposal to IRCC.

The AWO, as one of the founding members of the SAH Association, continued to hold its unique position of being the only Canadian Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) that is led by refugee women with a primary focus on protecting refugee women. In 2019-2020, AWO welcomed 343 sponsored refugees from eleven visa posts, including but not limited to Turkey, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Israel, providing them with the required financial, settlement and emotional support. We have undertaken comprehensive fundraising initiatives, increased our refugee budget significantly, and recruited additional volunteers to be well prepared to support refugees arriving under our sponsorship. AWO as contribution agreement holder for the SAH Secretariat project, provided service to a diverse range of over 110 municipals, local, and national SAHs.

The project “From Violence to Resilience” has enabled AWO with the galvanized approach to addressing domestic violence issues and providing support services in that regard. And provide tools in skill-building for a positive life experience for marginalized women. Our NFF project “Let’s Talk Not Hide” provided the women with a safe space and the opportunity to speak for themselves, express their feelings despite the negative norms in their communities. This year employment programming was well above target in terms of the number of clients who received services. We provided training and support to newcomers

with multiple barriers to enhance their employability and reach their employment goals.

Our youth program increased the number and quality of youth engagement in the community. The program has been part of the youth’s resilient journey to see their barriers in life lifted through a strong and growing network of support. The light of hope is in their eyes & spirits, knowing that there is a possibility of a brighter future for them in Canada. We are also seeing those same youth paying it forward in the community demonstrating that their experiences at AWO have had a meaningful, tangible impact on their lives.

We thank our valued funders, partners and community connections for enabling us to provide our clients with links to supportive social and professional networks and our hundreds of volunteers for their dedicated work with refugees. We are looking forward to continuing our fruitful partnership with IRCC other funders and partners so that together we can meet our mutual objectives of assisting refugees and newcomers.

Adeena Niazi
Executive Director

Asma Faizi
President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Asma Faizi (President)

Beheshta Jaghori (Vice President)

Huria Jalalzai (Treasurer)

Mina Saboor (Secretary)

Sheba Shernaz

Najeeba Shairzay

Hakeema Mashal Sidiqi

Nasima Bayat

Kobra Rasul

Abeda Baluch

OUR VISION

REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED WARS AND PERSECUTION, LEADING SELF-SUFFICIENT AND DIGNIFIED LIVES IN A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.

OUR VALUES

ACCESS AND EQUITY; DIGNITY AND RESPECT; SOCIAL INCLUSION; AND COLLABORATION

OUR MISSION

AWO WORKS WITH REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED WARS AND PERSECUTION, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES. ITS MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AND TO PROMOTE THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION IN ORDER TO ENABLE THEM TO BECOME CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AND TO LIVE IN DIGNITY.

**AWO
SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAM**

343



SPONSORED MOSTLY FROM
AFGHANISTAN, SYRIA, ERITREA, SOMALIA
AND IRAQ

**SETTLEMENT
PROGRAMS**

14922 ORIENTATION & INFORMATION



315 COMMUNITY CONNECTION
GROUP SESSIONS

**LINC
CLASSES**



711
STUDENTS

631
FEMALE STUDENTS

**YOUTH
PROGRAMS**



191
SESSIONS

1276
PARTICIPANTS

**WOMEN'S
CIRCLES &
SEWING
CIRCLES**



110
SESSIONS

948
PARTICIPANTS

**EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM**

630
CLIENTS ACCESSING
EMPLOYMENT



25
SESSIONS

192
PARTICIPANTS

**LANGUAGE
CONVERSATION
CIRCLES**



63
SESSIONS

464
PARTICIPANTS

SENIOR PROGRAMS

188 PARTICIPANTS

10 SENIOR LEADERS

FOOD BANK



635
FAMILIES

2263
FAMILY MEMBERS

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MISSISSAUGA PROJECT

4



328

COMMUNITY BAZAARS UNIQUE CLIENTS

LET'S TALK NOT HIDE (NFF)

225
SESSIONS



1,056
PARTICIPANTS

FROM VIOLENCE TO RESILIENCE

10 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SESSIONS

12 FINANCIAL LITERACY SESSIONS

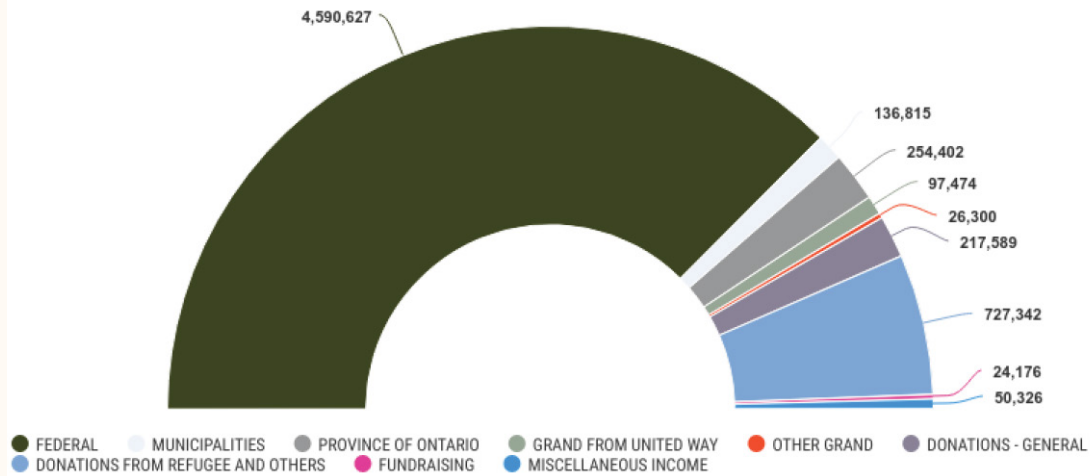
48 SEWING CIRCLE SESSIONS



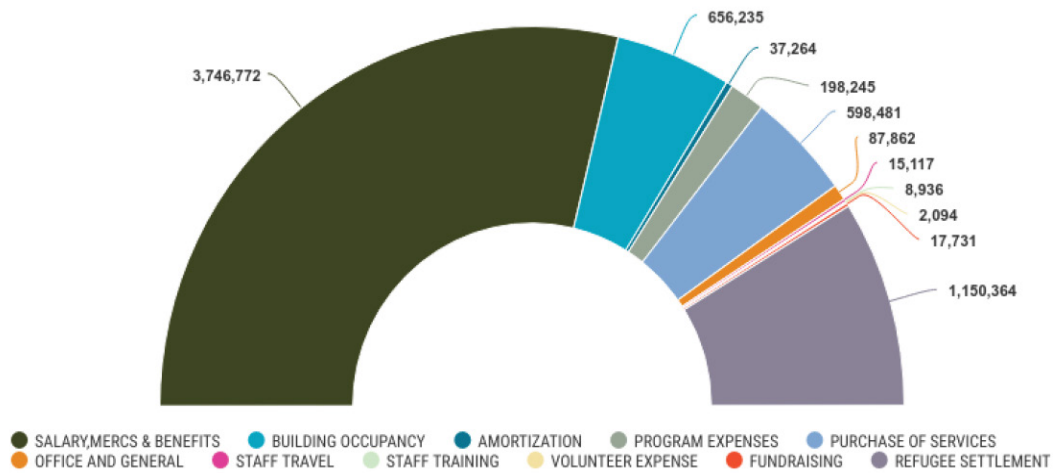
165
UNIQUE CLIENTS

FINANCES 2019 - 2020

REVENUE



EXPENSES



THANK YOU

We depend on our hard-working, dedicated volunteers, our trusted partner organizations, and our generous donors.

FUNDERS

The AWO's programming was generously supported by the following funders:

Immigrant, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada

The Newcomer Settlement Program, Ontario

The Newcomer Settlement Program, Toronto

Status of Women, Ontario

The United Way, Greater Toronto

City of Toronto: Community Service Partnerships

Employment and Social Development Canada: New Horizons for Seniors

Ontario Government: Senior Community Grant

Community Foundation of Mississauga - Pendle Fund

Toronto Public Health

AWO OFFICE LOCATIONS

AWO HEAD OFFICE:

150 Consumers Rd unit 203, North York, ON M2J 4G9
416-588-3585

AWO DON MILLS:

747 Don Mills Road, Unit 212 Toronto, ON M3C 1T2
416-422-2225

AWO SCARBOROUGH:

2555 Eglinton Ave. East, Unit 211 Toronto, ON M1K 5J1
416-266-1777

AWO MISSISSAUGA:

3050 Confederation PKWY, Mezzanine 1 Mississauga, ON L5B 3Z6
905-279-3679

WEBSITE: afghanwomen.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/afghanwomengreatertoronto/>

INSTAGRAM: @afghanwomensorg

TWITTER: @afghanwomensorg

LINKEDIN: @afghanwomensorganization



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