



CharityHelp International (CHI) has created the **Networking and Support Program** to resourcefully apply contemporary tools of communication in order to create partnerships between the West (North America and Europe) and Afghanistan. Participants and supporters in this program work together, developing initiatives to improve economic and social conditions for the Afghan people. Through this interaction, we believe that locally developed projects will find the foundation they need to be successful.

We envision productive partnerships between organizations and individuals who have the skills and knowledge most needed by the people of Afghanistan. These partnerships will be rooted in friendships and will build towards collaborative projects that may incorporate **grant-seeking and micro financing for social or business projects, media outreach, creative cultural initiatives** and **international networking of ideas**.

Questions and Answers for the CharityHelp Networking and Support Program:

What are the end objectives for this program?

The 2 main objectives of this project are:

- 1) To significantly accelerate the pace of positive economic and social change which the Afghan participants are pursuing through existing projects.
- 2) To build solidarity between women in a country of conflict and women of the west.

How are we being matched with participants?

CHI is creating a network of individuals in Kabul who are primarily involved in education, health, and child care. These will be the first participants in the program and they will be matched with the first supporters.

How will progress be measured?

Progress is measured qualitatively. Focus on understanding the needs of your partner in order to develop a project that best speaks to their unique situation. After months one, three, and six, we will send you a short questionnaire to fill out. We will want to know how your communication has been going, what types of projects you may be collaborating on, and what kinds of successes and/or difficulties you have faced. You are invited to email or call us at anytime with questions or concerns.

What is the time period involved?

Six months is a good frame of reference to keep in mind. You and your partner can continue as long as you like to complete projects that are more involved, or maintain friendship bonds.

What type of communication devices are we using for this program?

A smart phone is a phone with special capabilities, like internet and fax. A Blackberry is an excellent example of the type of device used by Afghan women. These are connected to a small keyboard and powered by a solar panel. Currently, the typical phone we would use would be the HTC 710, Nokia 6682 or Blackberry 8300. However, as better options become available, we will adapt.

Will my security be put at risk by taking part in this project?

The CharityHelp Email Management and Forwarding System (EMFS) has been designed to protect the identity of both the participant and supporter. As a supporter, your emails will be forwarded with a yourfirstname@supporters.charityhelp.org email address through the CharityHelp server in order to communicate with a woman in Afghanistan. This will allow you to maintain your privacy and assure you of your security while emailing a country in conflict. Your partner will be given a smart phone, a fold-up keyboard, and a solar charger to allow her access to the internet from any location.

How will my security be protected?

Your full name or personal information will be removed and your identity anonymous. All emails will be subjected to monitoring by CHI staff to ensure that the program is being used for its designated purposes. Our staff will also be copied on all emails in order for us to evaluate the progress and success of our program and to verify the authentic basis for these communications.

How many hours will each person need to allocate for this program? What kind of time commitment will this require?

From 30 minutes up to 3 hours per week if you begin to work on a project. It will be up to you.

Where can I go for extra assistance?

During the initial stages of the program you will be connected with the CHI networking coordinator via email. You will also have access to support through our web address.

What resources are being referred to as available for participants for the development of business ideas?

In the future, resources such as sources for grant funding will be available on the CHI website.

What are some examples of projects that we can collaborate on?

You can develop a business idea to start a small business together, or gather information on fund-raising or micro credit. You could create a cultural project by shooting a documentary or writing an article. When it comes to collaborating on a project, you are encouraged to share, create and produce.

What can I expect to gain from these interactions?

You can decide what you would like to gain to a large extent. For example, if you develop a business together, you will gain the knowledge of creating a business plan, grant writing, and implementing your idea. If you make a film, you will gain from the funding process, the creative process, and the process of raising awareness about women's lives in Afghanistan. Be inspired!

Supporting Women

How do I get started?

Once you have registered on-line to connect with an Afghan woman, you will receive an introductory email explaining how to communicate with your partner. You can visit www.charityhelp.org/supporter/login and sign into your account at any time.

Once I have an Afghan partner, where do I begin?

Begin by sending your partner an email introducing yourself. Tell her what type of work you do, and what your interests and experience includes. Find out what kinds of projects she is working on.

What happens if something serious happens to my partner?

Since we are working with a network of women, we will be able to keep track of the participants and inquire with other women about their whereabouts and safety.

Where can I go with questions?

Once you register, your CHI networking coordinator is available in the first stages of the program. This information is contained in your introductory email.

Afghan Women

Who will I be partnered with?

You will be partnered with a North American or European woman with interest in human rights.

What do I need to get started?

CHI will provide you with a smart phone and technical support. Contact your local networking coordinator to find out more details.

Where will I go to access technical support?

Contact your local networking coordinator for technical support.

What level of English language is required to communicate?

You should be at an intermediate English level. If you have basic English skills and want to participate, you can team up with another woman with more advanced English skills and work together.

What level of computer skill is required?

You should be able to send email and attach documents when necessary.

What level of qualification is required? Will a high school or university student be suitable for this program?

High school level would be fine.