



December 15, 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters of Barakat,

This has been a year unlike any other in memory. In many ways Barakat's work has been made more difficult. It remains more important than ever before to continue to stand by our core program beneficiaries: women and children who struggle against all odds to get a transformative education.

Afghanistan labors under the Taliban government's ban on female education past 6th grade. This is implemented on the ground in schools around the country, including the two schools that Barakat has constructed and supported since 2005: at Mulla Kareem Nazar School (1st to 12th grade for 569 boys, and 1st to 6th grade for 298 girls, 2025-26 academic session); and Besh Kappa Surkh School (1st to 8th grade for 290 boys, and 1st to 6th grade for 87 girls, 2025 academic session). Barakat continues to support these schools by paying female teacher salaries and by helping in the construction and repair of buildings or provision of materials like school uniforms for girls and fans to combat the heat. This year we were approached by locals who wanted a boundary wall and gate around Besh Kapa Surkh. Having ensured local input in the form of labor, Barakat funded the project which has since been completed. ***You can see pictures of these projects in the slideshow attached.***

Barakat also started the Tabarak Education Center (TEC) in 2025. TEC provides education to 198 girls and 35 boys past 6th grade in 4 separate centers located in Faryab province. Demand is high and we are planning to open 4 more education centers in 2026 as well as expanding the range of subjects offered to include STEM. We aim to increase enrollment to 50 boys and 346 girls at TEC in the coming year, allowing them access to what should be a basic human right: education.

Finally, we face the enormous challenge of helping the girls who were candidates for higher education, past 12th grade. These programs too were stopped by the Taliban as of January 2025. It came as an enormous shock to the girls who had completed one year of midwifery/nursing training through Barakat scholarships.

Barakat is meeting this challenge by starting two separate initiatives:

[Afghangeeks](#) an organization started by a young Afghan refugee [Murtaza Jafari](#), seeks to provide online IT education at varying levels to girls from Afghanistan. Girls who have completed a 12th grade education are eligible for this free program. It is our hope that Afghangeeks will reach out to 80 students in its second year, with Barakat's support.

The second initiative for girls who have completed 12th grade and find themselves at home is in response to a request from the girls and their families. In Faryab province, Barakat is going to begin sewing workshops that will serve as a social outlet for the girls as well as providing them with a means to earn an income that will furnish their living expenses. *It is a testament to Barakat's enduring presence in Afghanistan that community members*

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feel confident about approaching Barakat staff with requests for new programs as well as participating enthusiastically in already existing ones.

Sadly, for all of us, we were finally forced to end our programs in **Pakistan** where Barakat's work had first started in 1993 with Afghan refugees. This year has seen a brutal crackdown by the Pakistani government on the refugee population and the areas where Barakat's schools were located suffered a huge loss of refugee population, leaving us with no option but to shut our operations down. A [recent article in the New York Times](#) highlights the plight of Afghan refugees as the number of deportations in 2025 has far exceeded any previous years and it continues to climb! *In Attock, Punjab where Barakat schools were located less than 1% of the Afghan refugee population clings on and they too are likely to be driven out!*

In **India**, fortunately, we can continue to support [Guria](#) in Benaras which is an organization with the singular distinction of having achieved its goal: *100% of the children born to sex-workers in Benaras, Uttar Pradesh are kept from entering into the sex trade*, as either pimps or prostitutes. This is no small feat in a city with an estimated population of more than 4 million (as of 2021). Barakat is proud to support Guria's non-formal education center, located where the 120 children live – within the red-light district of Benaras. It is here that the children come to play and learn in out-of-school hours; to work with art therapy as a means of understanding and coming to terms with their position in a society that condones their mother's work but condemns the children who are born in the process. Last year the children participated in multiple functions and showcased as well as sold their handicrafts in varied venues across the city.

We plan to expand our work in the carpet-producing areas of Uttar Pradesh, India and are in talks with other organizations that work with underserved populations there. The challenge in India is that non-profits are [losing their FCRA \(Foreign Contribution \(Regulation\) Act\) under the current government](#).

As always, your support remains our mainstay. Please give generously today by check or online on our [website](#).

Yours truly, through these tumultuous times,

Dr. Arti Pandey, Ed.D.

Director

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