

Annual report 2017



©NQA/Haris Coussidis

Hope, dignity and determination

Association Nai Qala

A word from the President:

2017 marked the tenth anniversary of NQA's activities. It was a year for reflecting on our achievements, on what we have learned, how to improve as an organization and to look forward to new challenges.

It has been so rewarding over the past 10 years to see the steady growth of eight schools and one clinic serving some 70,000 people, bringing profound change to deprived communities that never imagined such change was possible. We involved the communities at every step of the way. We talked with men and women in an inclusive manner; they gave us their views & ideas about their priorities. Our success is thanks to them; we were able to shape our projects to meet their needs. It was an honor and privilege to have been able to accompany these isolated communities in their search for a better future. To see men and women learn together, start to believe in themselves is a beautiful experience.

The greatest achievement of these 10 years was seeing the communities flourish as they gained confidence and learned to take control of their own future and act for themselves. This empowerment is something that will stay with them always and ensures that the changes will last.

In 2017, I too felt more confident and committed by the experience of sharing knowledge with our team, local communities and administrations. This shared experience lays the foundations for the next generations to continue with new initiatives.

Change and transformation is also internal to NQA itself. With the support of one of our trusted partners, a strategy plan was developed for the next 5 years. We have invested in capacity-building, sent our staff to different training modules in Afghanistan and abroad, to share experiences and learn from others. We are proud of those steps as well and there will be more.

On the funding side, people and donors have shown extraordinary solidarity and generosity by believing in NQA's determination. Year 2017 was also a year for honoring all those who helped NQA to be so successful. We wish to thank the NQA team in Afghanistan, its board and volunteers, all the donors – individuals, foundations, schoolchildren and governments – whose support has enabled Nai Qala to make a difference to many lives.

Sincerely,
Taiba Rahim
President of Nai Qala Association

Highlights of the year

Achievements of 2017, 10th years of NQA anniversary

It was an honor and privilege to invite Ms Haris Coussidis to the province of Bamyan to visit one of the remotest regions of the country where NQA has built schools. Haris met the communities and took pictures to increase the visibility of NQA's work.



©NQA/Haris Coussidis

Miss Haris Coussidis met with the communities and photo documented their daily lives as well as the schools built by Nai Qala. These pictures are to be used to increase the visibility of NQA's work, notably in a photo exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland.

As she quotes:

"Traveling to areas where Nai Qala has built schools, it was a great opportunity to see at firsthand how the investment in girls' education living in isolated villages has a positive impact for the communities as a whole. As a photographer it was important to not only document the challenges they face as communities, but the resilience and strength of these wonderful people, who understand the value of education and the opportunities it can give them for a better future."

Construction of a school in the village of Sokhtagi, Yakawlang in the province of Bamyan

We started construction of our ninth school in the village of Sokhtagi, Yakawlang district, in the province of Bamyan for 520 girls.



Current Sokhtagi school

The construction of Sokhtagi school started in July 2017. The work of construction was suspended in November due to snow and extreme cold. The construction will be resumed in the beginning of April 2018 and is planned to be completed by August 2018.



November 2017

The school will have a total of 16 rooms for 520 girls (age 7 to 18), 8 classrooms, 4 teachers' rooms, 1 computer room, 1 laboratory room, 2 store rooms, Toilets, Volleyball field and a boundary wall.

In the relation of our Sokhtagi construction project

Local community engagement:



For the first time ever, both men and women from the local community of Sokhtagi sat together to discuss the future of their children's education. This is a project that concerns them all and it gave them the opportunity to come together as a community to discuss solutions. Many dozens of women joined this community gathering (a fact that surprised many of the men), some walking many hours to be part of this historic discussion.



Community gatherings are not new, but the meetings in Sokhtagi represent a very new way of thinking. This is the start of a new style of life that will help bring a different future. Women are very proud to be part of the process regarding this school project on an equal basis with men.

Women are sharing their opinions. They know that, if they want to have their say, they must be united and proactive. In late 2017, women in Sokhtagi village created the very first "Women's council association". This is a first, not only in their village, but also in the district and even in the province of Bamyan.

This school is the first infrastructure project Sokhtagi has had and the people of the village are proud of it. The project has already made some impacts on the life of the community.



80% of the workers are from Sokhtagi village engaged in the construction of school

Creation of employment: work opportunities have been welcomed by everyone and have helped to maintain the cohesion of the village as fathers and sons remain in Sokhtagi instead of leaving for long periods (sometimes forever) to seek work elsewhere.

Economic security: families have benefited from the additional income; it is especially encouraging that many families have invested their earnings in paying for further education or buying livestock that will enable them to increase their income over time.

Education: people are increasingly interested in education because they see that the construction of the school will lead to improved conditions of study.

Sustainability: the Ministry of Education has announced plans to allocate 3 additional qualified teachers to Sokhtagi because the project is underway.

Our capacity building program

Our capacity-building project took place in the schools we built in the past at Zeera Gag and Tagab Barg. Of the 600 girls who studied, around 100 managed to take the national higher education examination for university entrance.



Zeera Gag school, Panjab district, Bamyan province in 2017



Tagab Barg 18 years old girls are preparing for university exam

Our Early Childhood Development program

NQA started a new program of Early Childhood Development (ECD) that aligned with that of the Afghan Ministry of Education. Some 37 boys and girls aged 4–6 years attended.



Early Childhood Development program in Nai Qala village, Qara Bagh district, province of Ghazni

NQA capacity: NQA took a variety of steps to strengthen its capacity and professionalism for the future. Kabul staff attended training courses elsewhere in the region, giving them access to new ideas and methods of working.

The team in Switzerland was strengthened by the addition of a new **accountant** to match our expanded responsibilities. And NQA's **strategic plan** (2018-2022) was developed as a basis for our outreach to more of Afghanistan's underserved communities.

We put increased effort into building trust with other NGOs and using their experience to enhance our own.



Miss. Zewar is discussing with NQA team in Kabul and this is her story:

“I was 12 when Taiba Rahim came to my village and discussed building a school with the authorities. A year later a school was built and for the first time we started to study under a roof in decent conditions. I was able to complete my schooling successfully and went on to university. Last year I graduated and returned to my village. Now I am grateful to work with NQA as an ECD teacher and proud to serve my village. This year, I joined Taiba Rahim to see the NQA projects in Bamyán province. I observed how she discusses and negotiates. This made me realize and understand the many processes involved to build our school. I was proud to learn a lot about negotiating with the community”.



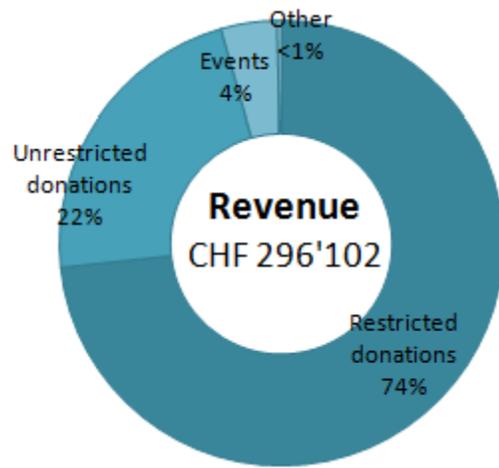
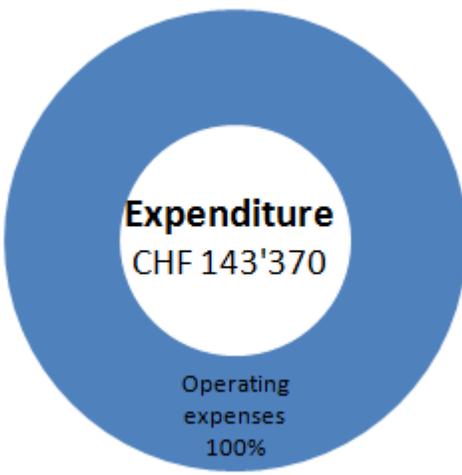
Mr. Ali Reza

Mr. Ali Reza from NQA Kabul office shared his learning in 2017:

“Thanks to the president's ability to communicate with communities, I have learned how to inspire and motivate people to take ownership of their projects. I have learned how to clearly identify and describe project challenges and opportunities to be accessible to all.

I am also happy to be able to prepare a project budget and to break down the details. Thanks to the management course, I was able to build a professional and respectful office environment”.

Financial Report 2017



These are final figures based on accounting books. All donations are tax deductible in Switzerland.

Since 2007, the Nai Qala Association has received generous support from a range of individual private donors, institutions and governments. This is the place to express our heartfelt appreciation and recognition for their generous support and the exemplary trust they have placed in the commitment and projects of our Association. They were touched by the engagement of the Association and by the concrete results achieved. We have received donations from schoolchildren as well as from institutions. Among our main contributors:

Main donors:

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), US Embassy (Kabul, Afghanistan), OAK Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland), Paradise Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland), Firmenich family (Geneva, Switzerland), HIRZEL Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland), Scintillae Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland), Migros Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland), Rotary Clubs in Nyon and Geneva (Switzerland), Geneva city (Switzerland), Canton of Geneva (Switzerland), Paléo Festival (Nyon, Switzerland), Table Ronde (Nyon, Switzerland), Various Municipalities in Switzerland, Various Schools and schoolchildren in Switzerland, Women's associations in Switzerland, Hundreds of individuals who contributed from 10 to 100'000 USD

Every year we organize a fundraising event in the Geneva Lake region of Switzerland, with a strong involvement of local communities.

Nawur Basic Health Center (BHC) update in 2017:



Nawur BHC, province of Ghazni: built by NQA in 2011

Nawur BHC continues its service to the Nawur community since 2011.

As of the end of December 2017, 3156 women and 1022 children had been vaccinated in the clinic. Some 13,000 outpatient visits took place for a range of conditions that, without the clinic, would have gone untreated until they became far more serious, and the records show 125 cases of severe malnutrition receiving medical care. Some 175 Nawur patients were referred to other health facilities for more specialized treatment.

Vision

An educated, healthy and balanced society in which women and men lead social, cultural and economic changes in an inclusive manner that enables their children – boys and girls – to thrive, focusing on neglected parts of Afghanistan.

Mission

Nai Qala fosters change at the individual, family, community, regional and national levels in neglected parts of Afghanistan that would lead to a gender-just, healthy, educated and empowered society. Nai Qala catalyzes those transformations by improving access to quality health and education services and by providing livelihood opportunities to very low-income members of the community.

Nai Qala Association

www.nai-gala.org / info@nai-gala.org

IBAN: CH66 0022 8228 5702 1701 N (Compte CHF)

IBAN: CH78 0022 8228 5702 1761 F (Compte USD)

SWIFT/BIC: UBSWCHZH80A

UBS, rue de la Morâche, 1260 Nyon

March 2018

Background information about Nai Qala Association (NQA)

“My hope is to contribute to a different image of Afghanistan – an image of engagement and achievement – and to convey the fact that Afghans have the same hopes and aspirations as all other people in the world: we are in search of respect and a better future”.

Taiba Rahim, Founder

The Nai Qala Association (NQA) was founded in 2007 with a vision to strengthen the dignity, self-confidence and sense of initiative of the local population, and especially women, in the isolated rural regions of central Afghanistan. The association is named after the founder’s village of origin in the Hindu Kush: Nai Qala.

NQA has carried out 10 successful construction projects since 2007: eight schools (in Ghazni and Bamyán provinces for some 8000 children, both girls and boys), a clinic (in Ghazni province for a population of about 20,000) and a hygiene project (in Kabul province for over 1000 girls).



©NQA/Haris Coussidis (2017)