

AOAD Factsheet

September 2022, Kabul

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Legal status and partnership: Established in May 2007 and based in Kabul-Afghanistan, Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled (AOAD) is a non- governmental, non- profit and non-political organization, formed by Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and working for Persons with Disabilities, their direct family-members, and other segregated groups, as peer-support and disability advocacy organization. Under Registration number No.956, AOAD is registered with Ministry of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In addition, AOAD is also registered with the Ministry of Women Affairs for gender mainstreaming, especially the women and girls with disabilities in development, humanitarian and political agenda. We are also core member of the Afghan Campaign to Bann Landmine (ACBL).

The Constitution of Afghanistan guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities, especially under Article 53 and 84, and with a general reference in Article 22.

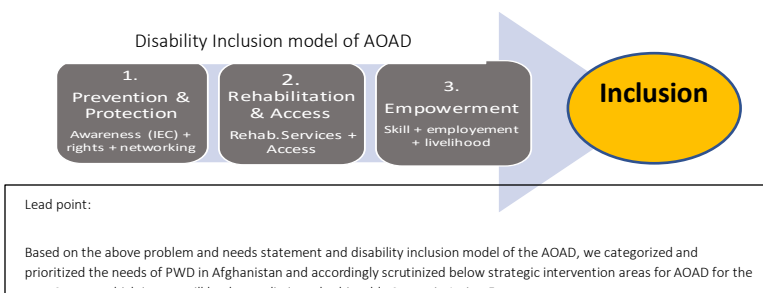


AOAD is an active stakeholder in the United Nations' Humanitarians Country Team (HCT/UNOCHA), former Steering Committee member of ACBAR and member of the Afghan C.S.O.'s Network. As disability partner, AOAD closely works with the government and its line ministries, like State Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Refugees and Returnees (MORR), Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). AOAD received official Accreditation from the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) to implement projects for Victims Assistance, Persons with Disabilities and conduct Mine Risk Education (MRE) projects. AOAD is active program partner of the World Food Program WFP, European Union (EU) for Consortium project with Swadesh Committee for Afghanistan and Save the Children International (EU, SCA/SCI). We are also long-term partner of the U.S. Department of State Weapon Removal Abatement (PM/WRA), Counterpart International (ACEP/CPI/USAID), WHO, DDG/DRC, OMAR, AAR-Japan. WFP, FAO and UN-HABITAT.

As major disability actor in Afghanistan, internationally AOAD is extensively involved in world disability rights campaign and advocacy. AOAD founder officially represents the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies & Environment (GAATES) Canada, in Afghanistan. As disability rights expert, the founder of AOAD has received several international disability awards and has cross-fertilized Afghan disability experience across 19 countries in the field of disability inclusion and disability rights and advocacy.

Mandate: AOAD runs a comprehensive model of community-based rehabilitation and development program, where men, women, and children with disabilities and landmines victims are comprising the core target group alongside other isolated segments of the society such as IDPs, disaster affected communities and refugees and returnees. We stiver hard to bring our core target group to mainstream life, through addressing their social, cultural, legal, economic, and political needs and empower them towards self-reliance, by delivery of specialized advocacy, rehabilitation, access, education, economic/livelihood and recreational services, besides referring them to available local mainstream services.

AOAD has mission statement to include Persons with Disabilities as peer-support leaders, through sharing good practices and lessons-learnt, providing common forum for dialogue among relevant stakeholders (Government, Disabled Peoples Organizations, Civil Society, United Nations NGOs and Academia). AOAD promotes disability rights and inclusion in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2015-2030).



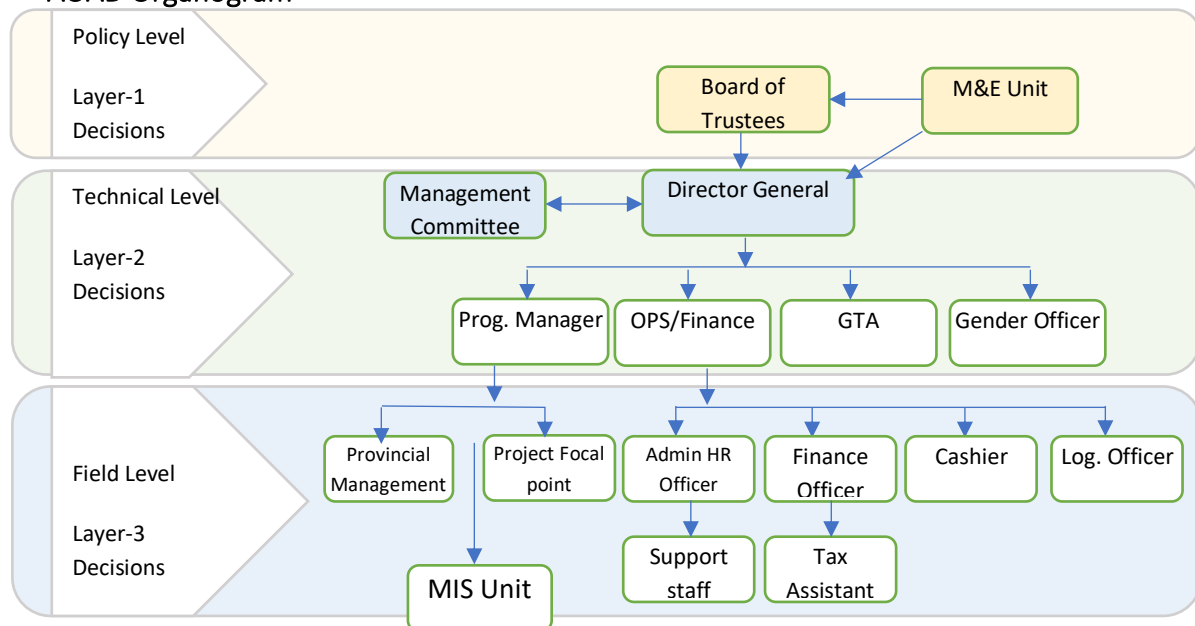
History: AOAD was first funded through a small grant project of ABILIS Foundation of Finland for physical accessibility, building-Ramps constructions in the schools in Kabul in 2007. Before this AOAD was working as a common platform of PWD, who were working as volunteers for their rights and recognition.

Geo Coverage: With presently 4 Regional Offices, covering almost 70% of the country and having occasional operational access through sister NGOs and CSOs, to the remaining 30% of the territory, AOAD runs nationwide humanitarian and development programs/projects in Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Khost, Paktia, Paktika, Zabul Logar, Uruzgan, Bamyán, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Parwan, Balkh, Jawzjan and Wardak province of Afghanistan. AOAD covers rest of the regions through its community volunteers, DPOs and sister NGOs.

Achievements: As national disability organization managed by PWDs, AOAD has successfully implemented 74 humanitarian and development projects in the disability, rights, awareness, rehabilitation, and access domains:

1. Constructed more than 581 ramps and slops in 252 public buildings schools, health clinics, Mosques, and governmental departments;
2. Provided skills development and vocational training to more than 9000 Persons with Disabilities Including vulnerable family-members of the Persons with Disabilities;
3. Awareness and sensitization to 3080 community members regarding the rights of Persons with Disabilities;
4. Lobbied for job-placement for 200 Persons with Disabilities, now working with NGOs, INGOs, and the government;
5. Rehabilitated and integrated to normal education 200 children with disabilities and enrolled them in public schools;
6. Provided Civic Education and Advocacy for the rights of Persons with Disabilities according to the UNCRPD, in 17 provinces;
7. Facilitated consultation to research on physical accessibility which led to development of a national guideline for government of Afghanistan;
8. Conducted a number of livelihood projects to improve economic situation of persons with disabilities;
9. Social assessment and services to improve participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities;
10. Continuous advocacy and lobby for the rights of persons with disabilities based on UNCRPD and national law, and advocacy for child rights, especially children with disabilities,
11. Represented the Afghan landmine victims in the international workshops, conferences and meetings on Disabilities rights, and worked for the implementation of the OTAWA Mine Ban Treaty,

AOAD Organogram



MANDATE

Vision:

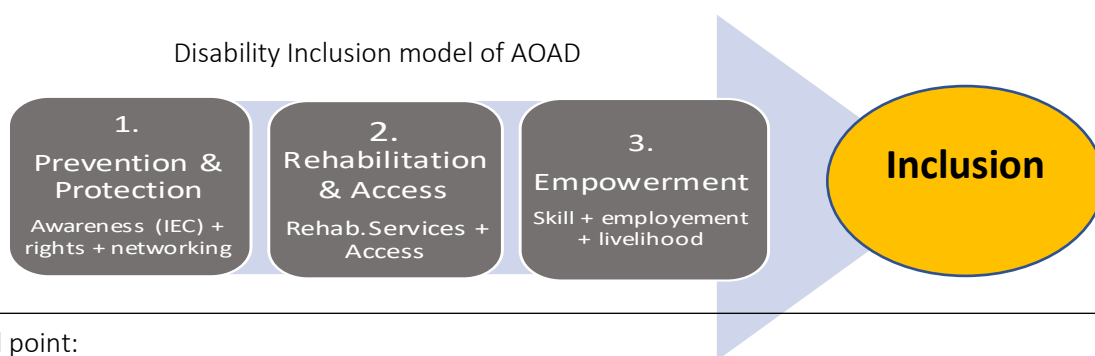
Protection, Equal Rights, Dignity, Inclusion, and Prosperity for persons with disability.

Mission:

To promote dignity and quality of life of Persons with Disabilities through provision of capacity, facilities, services, and access to mainstream livelihood, in a sustainable manner.

Values:

1. Respect and Dignity
2. Equality & Impartiality
3. Transparency & Accountability
4. Commitment & Productivity



Lead point:

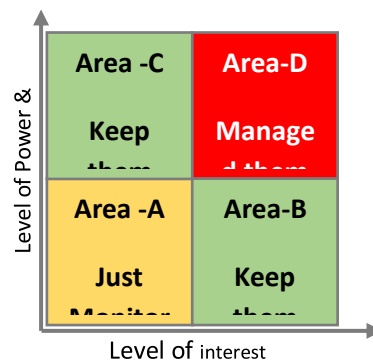
Based on the above problem and needs statement and disability inclusion model of the AOAD, we categorized and prioritized the needs of PWD in Afghanistan and accordingly scrutinized below

TARGET GROUPS & TARGET AREA,

Based on group discussion at AOAD's S. Plan development process, the management team of AOAD decided to target all 34 provinces of the country, with prioritization of provinces, highly affected by disability and least served during past years. This S. Plan recommends to keep PWD as core target group, but AOAD will also strive to include other vulnerable groups such as children, women, IDPs, returnees and communities affected by disasters. We are now planning to open branch of AOAD in north America and through that office cover the neediest countries in Asia and Africa.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND PARTNERS, AOAD gives high value to partnership, harmony and coordination among all parties and organizations involved in support, protection and service delivery to PWD in Afghanistan. Therefore, we at AOAD, keep working relations in all stages of our

program development such as design, deployment and execution and post execution evaluation and repositioning. Our main stakeholder is the government who is main body to protect the PWD by law and allocate reasonable resources for the support of PWD. UN system, international donors, national and international NGOs, media, private sector, the organizations of PWD and the communities are all our important partners/stakeholders, who must be closely linked to and informed of the AOAD operations at all levels. Below matrix scrutinizes our stakeholders based on degree of their relevance, interest, power and impact. During AOAD’s program execution, all stakeholders will be managed according to our Master Stakeholder Management Matrix.



Master Stakeholder Management Matrix

N	Stakeholder	Position
1	Government	C
2	UN system and HCT	D
3	Donors	D
4	National and International NGOs	D
5	Media	B
6	Private sector	A
7	Organizations of PWD	B
8	Community/ Local Shoras	D
9	Non-State elements	C
10	Women associations	B
11	IDPs/Returnees groups	B

COUNTRY CONTEXT

With 37.2 million population, Afghanistan has over three quarters of citizens living in rural localities with almost half of them under the age of 15 years. Youth literacy rate is low, with more than half of the youth aged 15–24 illiterate and most of the youth of work age are unemployed.

The UNDP’s Human Development Report -2018, ranks Afghanistan amongst the least developed countries globally (168th out of 189 countries) in the Human Development Index (HDI), a combined score of life

expectancy, education and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. In addition, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is one of the lowest in the world at \$520 USD, and the percentage of the national GDP spent on health is hardly 10%. Despite free provision of basic health services to its civilians, the out-of-pocket expenditure on health remains high (77% of health expenses). About 80% of Afghan Population lives more than 100km from a physical rehabilitation centers and 20 out 34 provinces do not have Prostheses and Outhouses' facilities (MDSA-2019).

Disability In Afghanistan: Over the past 15 years Afghanistan has undergone rapid development and achieved significant healthcare progress; still, a combination of health challenges remains in place, including physical and mental disabilities. It is estimated that for every person who dies during a disaster, three people sustain injury which often results in long-term disabilities and in Afghanistan this has a comparatively larger implication due to uncontrolled civilian casualties in armed conflict inflicted by all of the warring factions. Landmine Monitor estimates that 95% of explosive weapons victims in Afghanistan are civilians, and more than half of them are children.

The National Disability Survey of 2005, conducted by Handicap International and the Government of Afghanistan, found that 10.8% of the Afghan population live with a severe or very severe disability. And the MDSA-2019 reveals that 13.9% of the Afghan population has severe disabilities. Majority of these PWD have multiple physical disabilities.

Major Afghan Disability Indicators

- About 44.1% of adults did not use assistive devices because they did not know about them.
- Disability prevalence among adults is 21.1% for no disabilities, 24.6% for mild, 40.4% for moderate and 13.9% for severe disabilities.
- Disability prevalence among children is 82.7% for no disabilities, 6.6% for mild, 7.1% for moderate and 3.5% for severe disabilities.
- Higher education, higher household income, and an easier climate are associated with lower disability, while being married, separated, divorced or widowed (compared to never married) and employment status other than self- or salaried-employment is associated

Around 37% of the PWD in Afghanistan have physical disabilities, mainly caused by wars landmines and internal fighting. Almost 26% of PWD have sensory disability, most of which are

Physical disability	37%	Multiple physical disabilities	46%
		Paralyses	29%
		Physical deformity	12%
		Lack of one limb	12%
Sensory disability	26%	Visual impairment	32%
		Hearing impairment	25%
		Speech impairment	23%
		Speech and hearing impairment	15%

preventable, should we put a proper health and disability awareness system in place. The poor health care and ongoing conflict in Afghanistan have

contributed to a rapid increase in the number of persons with disability. Almost three-quarters of persons with disabilities live in rural and poor semi-urban settings (Norad 2012). These areas are in most cases under resourced providing limited services and programs for persons with disabilities. Most of PWD in Afghanistan are illiterate, unemployed and/or lack access to basic services such as health, education, livelihood, and other enabling opportunities. Absence of access to mainstream services, proper care and neglect of the basic rights can leave persons with disabilities confined to their homes for years, with conditions that could be addressed or alleviated

with appropriate interventions (National Disability Survey 2005). According to a more recent Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2016–2017, the highest rate of disability in Afghanistan is among people above the age of 85 (56 %), and the lowest disability rate is among the youngest age group, 0–4 years, at 0.5%.

Social barriers: Discrimination, segregation, negative attitude of families, community and government authorities, lack of rehabilitation support facilities, limited capacity and inaccessible physical environment and lack of opportunities for participation have negatively affected persons with disabilities in Afghanistan. International Classification of Functioning (ICF) identify disability as a global public health issue and a human rights concern as PWD are faced with barriers in accessing mainstream services (i.e., health care, education, employment, and social services), and experience widespread societal discrimination and inequalities at all levels and even at family level, due to ill social behavior and traditional disability attitude and philosophy of dependency and inability. In Afghanistan, traditionally disability is treated socially as a stigma, which further adds to daily challenges, segregation, Isolation and deprivation of person with disabilities.

Resources Allocation: Persons with disabilities face higher risks and challenges in society, which are further exacerbated in conflict zones where resources are limited and subject to tough competition and unequally resources allocation. In Afghanistan, though the Government has developed several laws and policies for rehabilitation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, yet most of the rehabilitation services are still provided by international and national non-governmental organizations and International Committee of the Red Cross. Donors funding in turn underestimates the needs and priorities of PWD and lack of PWD-friendly resource policies neglect integration of PWD into national development programs.

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