



Organization for Human Relief (OHR)

PROFILE

Centering dignity • Advancing equity • Transforming lives
A women-led, community-rooted organization driving inclusive, resilient, and transformative change in Afghanistan.

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Who We Are

Organization for Human Relief (OHR) is a women-led, non-profit, non-governmental organization, formally registered in Afghanistan in 2013. OHR emerged from the lived realities of communities affected by disasters, exclusion, poverty, social injustice, and systemic inequalities, OHR prioritizes those most marginalized—particularly women, girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

Rooted in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), OHR works at the intersection of humanitarian action, psychosocial wellbeing, gender equality, access to services, women’s empowerment, and sustainable community development. We stand with communities in their pursuit of dignity, resilience, and opportunity, ensuring that every initiative strengthens local capacities and fosters lasting change.

Our work is participatory, culturally grounded, and locally driven, centering people not as beneficiaries, but as agents of change. From psychosocial support and protection for women and girls to humanitarian assistance, education, health, and inclusion initiatives, OHR addresses urgent needs while building long-term resilience.

Through gender-transformative and community-driven programs, we actively challenge social norms, reduce barriers to participation, and promote leadership among those most excluded. By partnering with donors, institutions, and local communities, OHR amplifies impact and ensures solutions reflect the voices and priorities of those we serve.

We envision resilient, equitable communities where every person can thrive, and we transform lives by combining immediate support with empowerment, local capacity strengthening, and advocacy for sustainable social change.

Our Purpose

Vision

Thriving, just, and inclusive communities where people drive sustainable change, and everyone fully realizes their rights, dignity, safety, and opportunities.

Mission

To build and sustain equitable partnerships and advance community-led, transformative solutions that address evolving community needs, strengthen well-being, and empower women and marginalized populations to exercise agency and shape their futures.

Our Promise

We commit to:

- Centering dignity, lived experience, and local leadership
- Challenging harmful norms and structural inequalities
- Delivering accountable, ethical, and inclusive programming
- Creating sustainable impact through transformative change
- Building equitable, trust-based community partnerships

Our Values

- **Dignity**
We uphold the inherent worth, agency, and rights of every person. OHR ensures that all actions respect choice, privacy, culture, and self-determination.
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**
We address structural barriers and value diversity across gender, age, ethnicity, ability, geography, and lived experience. We promote meaningful participation and shared power for those most excluded.
- **Accountability & Safeguarding**
We are accountable to communities, partners, and our supporters. OHR upholds transparency, ethical conduct, and safeguarding to prevent harm and ensure trust.
- **Integrity & Professionalism**
We act with honesty, responsibility, and ETHICAL standards. OHR maintains professionalism in conduct, decision-making, and service delivery, even in complex and high-risk environments.
- **Solidarity & Partnership**
We believe sustainable change is built through solidarity, collaboration, and collective action. OHR works with communities, civil society, and allies to strengthen local leadership and capacities and shared solutions.
- **Community Ownership**
We center communities as leaders of their own change. OHR supports locally driven solutions by amplifying community voices, strengthening capacities, and respecting local knowledge.
- **Learning, Adaptability & Innovation**
We embrace learning-driven, adaptive, and context-responsive approaches. OHR continuously reflects, learns, and innovates to strengthen relevance, effectiveness, and sustainable impact.
- **Resilience**
We strengthen resilience by empowerment, supporting coping mechanisms, local systems, and long-term pathways for wellbeing and self-reliance.

What We Do (Programmatic Pillars)

1. Gender Justice & Women's Empowerment

- Women's economic empowerment and livelihoods
- Vocational and skills development
- Women's leadership, rights awareness, and advocacy
- Prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices
- Support to women-led enterprises and market access

SDGs: 5, 8, 10

2. Protection & Psychosocial Support

- Community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Trauma-informed counseling for women, youth, and survivors of violence
- Legal aid and referral pathways
- Child protection and safeguarding

SDGs: 3, 5, 16

3. Humanitarian Response & Sustainable Community Development

- Emergency food, shelter, and non-food items assistance
- Disaster risk reduction and preparedness
- Support to internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and disaster-affected communities
- Sustainable community development

SDGs: 1, 2, 11, 13

4. Education, Youth & Capacity Strengthening

- Literacy and accelerated learning programs
- Youth leadership and civic engagement
- Capacity strengthening for CSOs and community institutions
- Support for equal access to education

SDGs: 4, 8, 16

5. Health, Wellbeing & Nutrition

- Maternal, child, and reproductive health initiatives
- Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing
- Hygiene promotion and disease prevention
- Emergency treatment and community health advocacy

SDGs: 3, 6

6. Livelihoods & Environment

- Climate-resilient agriculture and food security
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
- Sustainable natural resource management
- Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation

SDGs: 2, 6, 12, 13, 15

Our Approach:

At OHR, we work alongside communities to drive inclusive, sustainable, and locally led change. Grounded in dignity, equity, and community ownership, our approach ensures that every intervention strengthens resilience, expands opportunity, and empowers people to shape their own futures:

1. Community-Led, Participatory, and Empowerment-Focused:

We work *with* communities, not *for* them. Communities co-design, implement, and monitor programs. Build agency, trust, and psychosocial wellbeing, to enable communities to claim their rights and lead sustainable change.

2. Integrated and Holistic Programming:

OHR addresses interconnected needs through humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support, livelihoods, education, health, capacity building, and social cohesion initiatives. By linking relief with long-term development and addressing multiple needs.

3. Equity-, Inclusion-, and Gender-Transformative Action:

We remove barriers related to gender, age, disability, displacement status, and geography. Our programs promote equitable participation, challenge harmful norms, and shift power dynamics to ensure all community members can thrive.

4. Learning, Adaptability, and Innovation:

OHR blends local expertise with evidence-based practices, and continuous reflection. By embedding adaptive management, data-driven learning, and community feedback, we test, refine, and scale solutions for maximum relevance and impact.

5. Partnerships and Local Capacity Strengthening:

We collaborate with communities, donors, local institutions, and grassroots networks to strengthen local systems, share knowledge, and amplify impact.

6. Accountability and Impact:

Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and safeguarding are embedded across all programs. We track results, respond to feedback, and continuously improve program quality while maintaining transparency, trust, and ethical standards.

Partnerships & Experience

OHR has implemented donor-funded programs with: UN Women-EVAW, Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), The Asia Foundation (TAF), Counterpart International (CPI), and Amna Refugee Healing Network (Amna).

Our work spans Nuristan, Nangarhar, Kunar, Bamyan, Samangan, Khost, and Zabul provinces, with a strong record in women’s empowerment, psychosocial support, social cohesion, livelihood support, emergency treatment, hygiene promotion, supporting school students, rehabilitation, social peace, capacity building and humanitarian action.

Accountability & Safeguarding

OHR maintains robust systems for:

- Financial transparency, record keeping and annual audits
- Safeguarding, child protection, and PSEA
- Gender equality & equity and anti-harassment
- Complaints and feedback mechanisms

- M&E systems and data management

Communities are central to our accountability.

Governance & Leadership

- Women-led organization with 52% women in senior leadership
- Guided by an independent Board of Directors
- Executive leadership supported by programmatic and operational departments
- Participatory decision-making involving staff, partners, affected population and communities

OHR prioritizes ethical leadership, safeguarding, and transparency across all structures.

Our People

- 95% local staff, deeply rooted in the communities we serve
- Multidisciplinary professionals: program developers, social workers, psychologists, trainers, humanitarian practitioners, and community mobilizers
- Active volunteer network strengthening outreach and community trust
- Commitment to youth development, internships, and learning pathways

Our team reflects the diversity, resilience, and aspirations of the communities we serve.

Organogram attached.

Our Call

We believe lasting, meaningful change happens when those most-affected lead the solution. OHR invites partners, donors, and allies to collaborate in building communities grounded in equity, dignity, resilience, and hope.

Organogram:

