

WOMANITY FOUNDATION AFGHANISTAN



1,000

young women will benefit from the education.

200

hours of computer programming are taught per year.

Coding for a living

The Womanity Foundation is a Swiss non-profit organisation founded in 2005 in Geneva to accelerate innovations in women's and girls' empowerment. Womanity's vision is that of a world in which all women and men enjoy equal social, economic, and political participation. Partnering with businesses, social entrepreneurs, and civil society organisations around the world, Womanity embraces innovation and collaboration to achieve this vision.

The 'Girls Can Code' (GCC) programme, supported by the Julius Baer Foundation, is a pioneering certification training in web development. This 36-month course is offered in the four largest public secondary schools in Kabul city and enables qualification for immediate employment in web development and database management. The curriculum is accessible for students in grades ten through twelve and includes about 200 hours of computer programming

per year, including languages such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, and SQL. It is designed to help women participate in the fast-growing ICT sector by teaching them the skills linked to local market demands as well as providing them enough job opportunities through a partnership with local companies and businesses. Between 2017 and 2019, 1,000 students aged between 16 and 18 will benefit from this training.

Creating qualified female ICT employees

Through Womanity and the GCC programme, young women can acquire the skills needed to participate in the growing employment market in Afghanistan. By 2030, there will be an estimated global shortage of 75–80 million medium- and high-skilled workers and an oversupply of low-skilled labour. Science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM)-related jobs are growing at 1.7 times the rate of other jobs and pay 33% more than other jobs. Today, women are underrepresented in STEM-related jobs,



**Meena A. Z. Zai**

12th grade student of
the Al-Fatah high school
in Kabul city

“I joined the GCC programme in March 2017 because I am very interested in acquiring more knowledge about web development. I am learning how to make websites through HTML, CSS, and JS. The studies are very interesting for me. I am very excited to learn all about coding and I will do my best to get good results. There are good chances, such as internship possibilities in some organisations, which is a golden opportunity for graduated students to obtain a job. I feel blessed to have been offered to participate in this programme.”

Julius Baer Foundation

For more than fifty years, the Julius Baer Foundation has dedicated itself to making meaningful and impactful contributions to society. The grant foundation of the Julius Baer Group was founded in 1965 by Walter J. Bär to support all forms of art and culture, various sciences and carefully selected charitable causes within Switzerland. The Foundation's reach has extended along with the growth of the Group, and, today it collaborates with partner organisations worldwide in the core areas of Vocational Training, Recycling PLUS and Wealth Inequality.

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even in fields where they hold an equal number of college degrees. In Afghanistan, computer skills are ranked at the top of the scale of future employment needs. A recent survey by USAID of 275 information and communication technology (ICT) companies in Afghanistan reported that there were 1,174 ICT jobs available for women. The major barrier to their employment was lack of practical knowledge of technology skills. The GCC programme is designed to improve students' ability to participate in this growing employment market. Well-performing, motivated students are engaged in an excellency path, which will teach them to use ICT proficiently and thus increase their chances of advanced studies in STEM or a professional career.

Facts and figures: Afghanistan

Afghanistan has an estimated population of 32.5 million and the highest fertility rate in Asia, with 5.3 children per woman. The majority of the population (63%) is below 24 years old and life expectancy is 60 years. The total literacy rate is 38%, with 52% for men and only 24% for women (UNESCO 2015). With limited opportunities given to women outside family chores, women's

participation in the labour force was only 19% in 2016. The number of Afghan girls who do not attend any school is 60%.

- Capital: Kabul, which is the country's largest city
- Inhabitants: 34.5 million
- Afghanistan has 2.5 million refugees, which is the second-highest number after Syria.
- At \$646, Afghanistan has one of the lowest GDP per person in the world.
- Languages: the country is multilingual. Two languages — Pashto and Dari — are the official and most widely spoken ones. It is believed that Afghanistan is home to more than forty minority languages and around 200 different dialects.
- Overall unemployment is around 40% according to UNDP
- The country is rich in natural gas and oil.
- 'Buzkashi' is Afghanistan's national game: players in two teams try to catch a goat while riding a horse. This game has been played for centuries and is a tough sport.

For more information about Womanity Foundation, please visit: www.womanity.org

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“There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women.”

Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate