387 girls and boys, ages 5 to 18, received safe shelter, nurturing care, stability, skills-building workshops, and education while their mothers were in prison. They regularly visited their mothers (when safe/feasible) and participated in cultural and recreational activities. Our psychologists provided counseling sessions for all children, most of whom had past trauma.

WAW’s 4 Children’s Support Centers (CSCs) are the only program of its kind in Afghanistan. We created this program after finding out that children were forced to live with their mothers in prison because there was nowhere else for them to go. Children in WAW’s CSCs are enrolled at the request of their mothers or guardians.

Though most children have never been to school before arriving at WAW’s CSCs, many quickly rise to the top of their class.

WAW also advocates for children who remain with their mothers in prison to improve their living conditions, and supports reunification of families. We conduct education sessions for prison officials and imprisoned mothers to educate them about children’s rights and our services. We also offer parenting classes to prepare mothers for visits with their children and their eventual reunification.

**VISION FORWARD:** We are working toward a day when no child over the age of 5 is in prison. WAW is working with Afghan government officials to expand the CSC program and reach all of Afghanistan’s prisons. We are also working to create a scholarship program for CSC children who pursue college.
BECAUSE OF WAW

95% of children of Afghan women prisoners are no longer incarcerated with their mothers.

We are working towards a day when no child is in prison with their mothers.

BAREEN has seven siblings. They were all living in a poor and remote district. Her father was mentally challenged and her mother cleaned homes for a living. One day, her father arranged for Bareen’s older sister to marry a man in the community, against her will, in exchange for money.

For two years, Bareen’s sister endured abuse from her husband. Eventually she ran away. She was found, arrested, and imprisoned. The family accused Bareen’s mother of helping her daughter run away, and she too was imprisoned.

At that time, the children were sent to prison with their mother because no one else was willing or capable of caring for them. The prison was awful. There was violence between the women, little food to eat, and nothing for the children to do.

WAW came and shared information about our Children’s Support Centers, and that is when Bareen’s life changed. Her mother enrolled her and her younger sisters, and they were relieved to have access to new clothes, comfortable beds, a playground, delicious food, and computer classes. The children were enrolled in school and tutored with accelerated classes within the center.

Bareen is now in fourth grade and flourishing. Her family, before the Children’s Support Centers, was illiterate. Now, she and her sisters can read. Bareen wants to continue her education for many years and has dreams of becoming a doctor.