23 women and 11 children (34 in total) received long-term shelter, legal support, family mediation, courses on life skills, literacy, and vocational training, and assistance to safely go back to their communities at our Halfway House in Kabul.

Our Halfway House is a safe haven that serves women and girls transitioning out of our women’s centers with nowhere to go. Many of these women and girls—even if their cases have been resolved—often carry the stigma associated with divorce, abuse, or running away. They have persistent threats to their lives and are at risk of being murdered as their relatives often vow to kill them for allegedly “shaming their family honor.”

Without a safe home or prospects for their future, these vulnerable women and girls would be forced to live on the streets and survive on their own. Instead, at our Halfway House, they participate in continued education, life skills and vocational training, and assistance with employment. They learn how to manage their finances and build their self-sufficiency. They leave the Halfway House when they are ready to live independent lives.

**VISION FORWARD:** We want to create more job opportunities for women leaving the Halfway House. We are building partnerships with private companies and local businesses. We also want to provide them with a financial package when they leave the Halfway House to ensure they have the resources to stay safe and work towards a fulfilling life.
In her teens, **ELAHA** was forced to marry a man who was addicted to drugs and emotionally and physically abusive. When she tried to leave him, he would threaten to kill her father.

For ten years, Elaha endured his humiliating and violent behavior. She also had three children with him, and felt she had to stay for them.

When she could take no more, she ran away and was referred to WAW. She started at our Women’s Protection Center where she received medical services, psychosocial support, literacy and vocational skills, and safe, comfortable living conditions. Additionally, WAW’s lawyers successfully obtained her legal separation from her husband.

Her family, however, would not accept her back or agree to protect and support her. Instead, Elaha stayed with WAW for several years, taking classes and building her self-reliance skills.

Although she continues to feel unsafe outside of WAW’s doors, she has now transitioned to our Halfway House with the goal of increasing her skills and independence.

Elaha is enrolled in school and is currently in the 8th grade. She is also taking intensive English, computer, and vocational training classes. She has dreams of one day being a defense lawyer and helping women just like her.

Over 90% of WAW clients surveyed reported an increased sense of safety and security, well-being, and self-sufficiency.