2,682 women and girls received critical health services, including maternity healthcare, medical treatment and surgery for survivors of violence, and protection and shelter for survivors whose lives were at risk. WAW’s new #ByHerSide program is offered in 14 provinces in Afghanistan.

Over the years, WAW has received cases where women and girls were abused so horribly that they needed life-saving, emergency, and extensive medical care. We also had pregnant women in our women’s centers that needed maternity care. We responded to these cases as they came to our attention.

Thanks to generous funders, in 2019, WAW formalized this service as the #ByHerSide program. Women, girls, and unborn children who are most at risk received proper medical care. WAW also arranged shelter, rescue, transportation, and accompanied clients to medical appointments or surgeries to ensure their safety and recovery.

We conducted a wide public awareness campaign throughout the 14 provinces to make sure we reached even the remotest areas.

Lives are saved everyday thanks to this program.

VISION FORWARD: We want to fully fund this program so it can continue to ensure women and girls receive the critical care they require. We continue to strengthen our partnerships and public awareness campaign to reach all Afghan women and girls in the country.
ADEELA was a 17-year-old young woman given to a man in baad (transactional) marriage to compensate for a family member’s crime. In her forced marriage, Adeela was routinely starved, tortured, and beaten. She was burned with a hot iron and boiling water, and beaten with sticks.

As a result of her torture and physical abuse, she developed an infection in her skin and muscles. By the time Adeela reached WAW, her injuries were so grave that she needed life-saving medical services and surgery to stabilize her condition.

Initial assessments indicated she may need to amputate her legs to survive. But, the care she received through our #ByHerSide program saved her limbs and she has begun to heal.

However, Adeela still suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder from the torture she endured. WAW caseworkers are providing intensive support services and staying by her side as she recovers.

Currently, the Afghan government has partnered with WAW to fully cover Adeela’s treatment. Her doctors are hopeful she will walk again and will be stronger than before.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

16 young Afghan women received full-ride undergraduate scholarships to the American University of Beirut (AUB) through the Education for Leadership in Crisis program. These gifted young women are now in Beirut getting their undergraduate degrees.

WAW works closely with AUB to raise awareness and assist accomplished students from underprivileged and marginalized backgrounds all over Afghanistan to apply to this program.

This life-changing, merit-based program is designed around AUB’s strong liberal arts foundation, with an emphasis on developing the leadership skills of students who live and are expected to return to areas in long-term crises. AUB is known for its high academic standards and the high demand for its graduates in all disciplines.

“My parents never dreamed that they could send me to university, much less that I would go abroad to study at a world-class university like the AUB. For me, it is a dream come true. This program has changed my life.” – ELC 2019 scholar