137 women and girls who were previously in prison, and their children, received safe shelter, legal support, family mediation, counseling, skill-building courses, and assistance to safely live in their communities.

Upon leaving prison, most women end up on the street, unable to return to their families for fear of violence and without any job prospects. Many are forced to turn to begging or prostitution to survive. They become the victims of even more violence and exploitation.

WAW’s 3 Transitional Houses aim to restore dignity and safety to one of the most marginalized and underserved segments of the Afghan population, previously imprisoned women.

We have provided hundreds of women and their children with a safe place and opportunities for a fresh start. At the Transitional House, women have individualized plans to prepare them for life outside of prison, including making sure all legal obstacles are cleared. They take courses to learn a vocation so that they may live a dignified, independent life.

Many successfully learn a skill and start earning income while at the Transitional Houses. WAW provides supplies and connects them with local businesses to buy their products or provide employment—not only while at the Transitional House but also when they leave for up to a year.

**EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 2001**

- **90%** of WAW clients are survivors of violence.
- **81%** of our clients could not read or write before they came to WAW.

Former clients of WAW’s Transitional Houses are now safely living the lives they choose for themselves. They are midwives. They are small business owners. They are WAW staff members. They are now helping other women heal and stand tall.
DAMSA was forced by her family to marry a man who, along with her in-laws, constantly abused her. Damsa went to her family for help, but they ignored her pleas in order to safeguard their standing in the community, as having a divorced daughter would “shame” them. One night, after a particularly violent altercation, Damsa’s in-laws called the police, blaming her for the incident. She was taken into custody for eight days. After an investigation, however, the police concluded that Damsa was the victim, not the perpetrator, and referred her case to WAW.

After arriving at WAW, Damsa was given a clean bed and new clothes. Because of the abuse she had experienced, this gesture of respect meant so much to her. She was then enrolled in vocational, life-skills, and literacy classes, as well as education about women’s rights in Islam.

With support from one of WAW’s defense lawyers, Damsa also succeeded in obtaining a legal separation from her husband. She received medical care and counseling sessions to provide her with comprehensive physical, emotional, and psychological support. Today, Damsa is on a path of recovery with hope for a brighter future.

VISION FORWARD:

We want to create additional partnerships to sell women-made products and employ formerly imprisoned women. We believe this will go a long way to ensure their safety as they rebuild new lives after prison.