1,904 women and 578 of their children (2,482 in total) received safe shelter, legal support, group and individual counseling, family mediation, courses on life skills, literacy, and vocational training, and assistance to safely go back and live in their communities.

Recognizing that women and girls who come to our FGCs are often escaping life-threatening and dangerous situations and have nowhere safe to go—WAW opened 12 Women’s Protection Centers (WPCs) to provide confidential, safe shelter to endangered clients and their children until their cases are resolved.

While at the WPCs, WAW provides opportunities for women to improve their overall well-being and to create opportunities. We make sure that they are physically and mentally healthy and are able to live the lives they choose after they leave the center. They attend skills-building classes that will allow them to become self-sufficient.

Women who do choose to go back to their families are reintegrated only after their families sign a legally binding contract to protect our clients’ rights and ensure no harm falls to them. WAW follows-up with every woman for up to one year after she leaves the center to make sure she is safe.

**AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY RANKED THE WORST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO BE A WOMAN.**

According to a survey of Women’s Rights Defenders conducted by TrustLaw for Amnesty International.

**NEARLY 90% OF AFGHAN WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC ABUSE.**

2008 Global Rights Survey

**VISION FORWARD:** We want to provide financial assistance to women and girls who leave our WPCs to further support their self-sufficiency. Most women who leave the centers face great obstacles in rebuilding their lives.
A few years ago, FARAH’S family married off her sister to a member of the Taliban. Not long after, they promised Farah to his brother. The idea of the marriage terrified her, and she ran away. Soon after, she was connected to WAW and one of our Women’s Protection Centers. She received safe shelter, clean clothes, and bedding. She was also enrolled in regular counseling, literacy classes, vocational classes, and life skills instruction. The goal was to prepare her for independent living and self-reliance.

At first, she felt uncomfortable. She was from a very remote area living under Taliban rule. New places and freedoms made her panic.

However, with attentive services, Farah was able to reimagine life. She tried mediation and counseling with her family, but never felt assured they would protect and support her. Instead, now, she is focused on a bright future. Farah will stay at WAW’s Women’s Protection Center until she can stand strong on her own.