



Solidarity Committee  
for Afghanistan



# Annual Report 2025



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**Cover Image:** Girls on their way to one of the schools where the EdTech project is implemented, Sabzdara Girls' School in Bamiyan Province. Photo: ABDUL RAQEEB SAIL

## IMPACT REPORT 2025

As a member of Giva Sweden, SC annually publishes a so-called impact report. As before, it is integrated into this annual report. This annual report and impact report pertain to the fiscal year 2025, and in it, you can find information about:

**The association as a non-profit organisation:** The management report.

**Operational costs 2025:** Annual report Note 12.

**Operational areas and geographical coverage:** Map page 4 and the sections Rural Development, Programme for People with Disabilities, Maternal Care, and Education.

**Target groups, their situation and priorities:** Page 5 and the sections Rural Development, Programme for People with Disabilities, Maternal Care, and Education.

**SC's resources:** Income and expenses page 9 and the annual report.

**SC's activities:** The sections Engagement, Communication and Advocacy, Rural Development, Programmeme for People with Disabilities, Maternity Care, and Education, as well as the Management Report, Strategic Area 1-4.

**The long-term effects we aim to achieve:** SP 2025–27 on [solidaritycommittee.org](http://solidaritycommittee.org) and the Management Report.

**How we measure and define what we achieve:** SP 2025–27 and the Management Report.



# Foreword

**THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN TUMULTUOUS** for our organisation. Those of us who were involved will never forget the shock and sorrow following the 2024 decision that we must cease our operations in Afghanistan, after over 40 years of work under various regimes and often shaky stability in the country.

The shared view of the board, management, and membership movement was, however, that we must continue to support the Afghan people. This is what we do best and what we are passionate about, as members, as local associations, as elected board members, and as management and staff. However, it was important to find the ways in which we should work and work and maintain our connection with Afghanistan and its people..

**A NEW STRATEGY** was developed during the fall of 2024. The entire year of 2025 focused on rebuilding our operations. We bid farewell to Andreas Stefansson, who stepped down as Secretary General after seven years, and welcomed Kajsa Johansson as the new Secretary General. The number of employees in Sweden was halved, and we reduced the number of members on the association's board. All to adapt to the new reality with a smaller organisation.

Much time and effort were spent maintaining contact with our donors, both institutions and the many individual donors we have had over many years. Our future depends on maintaining the trust they have shown us, and we do this by implementing our new strategy. I can honestly admit that we all felt anxious about the funding during the first half of the year. But then the anxiety began to ease, and we felt like we were starting to gain some momentum.

**AN IMPORTANT STEP** along the way was that we had an application to Sida for support to civil society approved. We applied for registration as an international organisation in Afghanistan. And we conducted a very successful fundraising campaign with the local associations leading, for

women's clinics in Afghanistan run by the Afghan Midwives Association. The result doubled the goal!

By the end of the year, we all felt we were on the right track. As we stated in our plan, we can support the people of Afghanistan through advocacy work and partnerships with local civil society organisations in Afghanistan. We can contribute to a better life for people living with disabilities, for girls and women, for people whose lives are affected by climate change. In Sweden, we want to work to ensure that the people of Afghanistan are not forgotten and try to be their voice.

**A WARM THANK YOU** to all donors who have supported and encouraged us throughout the year. The Postcode Lottery, Radio Aid, Sida, the EU, and thousands of people in Sweden who do not forget the Afghan people. Thanks to our local associations who keep going and contribute in every way. And thank you to Secretary General Kajsa Johansson and the hard-working staff and our board who have contributed in so many ways to keeping us on the course we have set.

The reality we operate in is in many ways unpredictable. But now our conditions to keep up with it look much better.

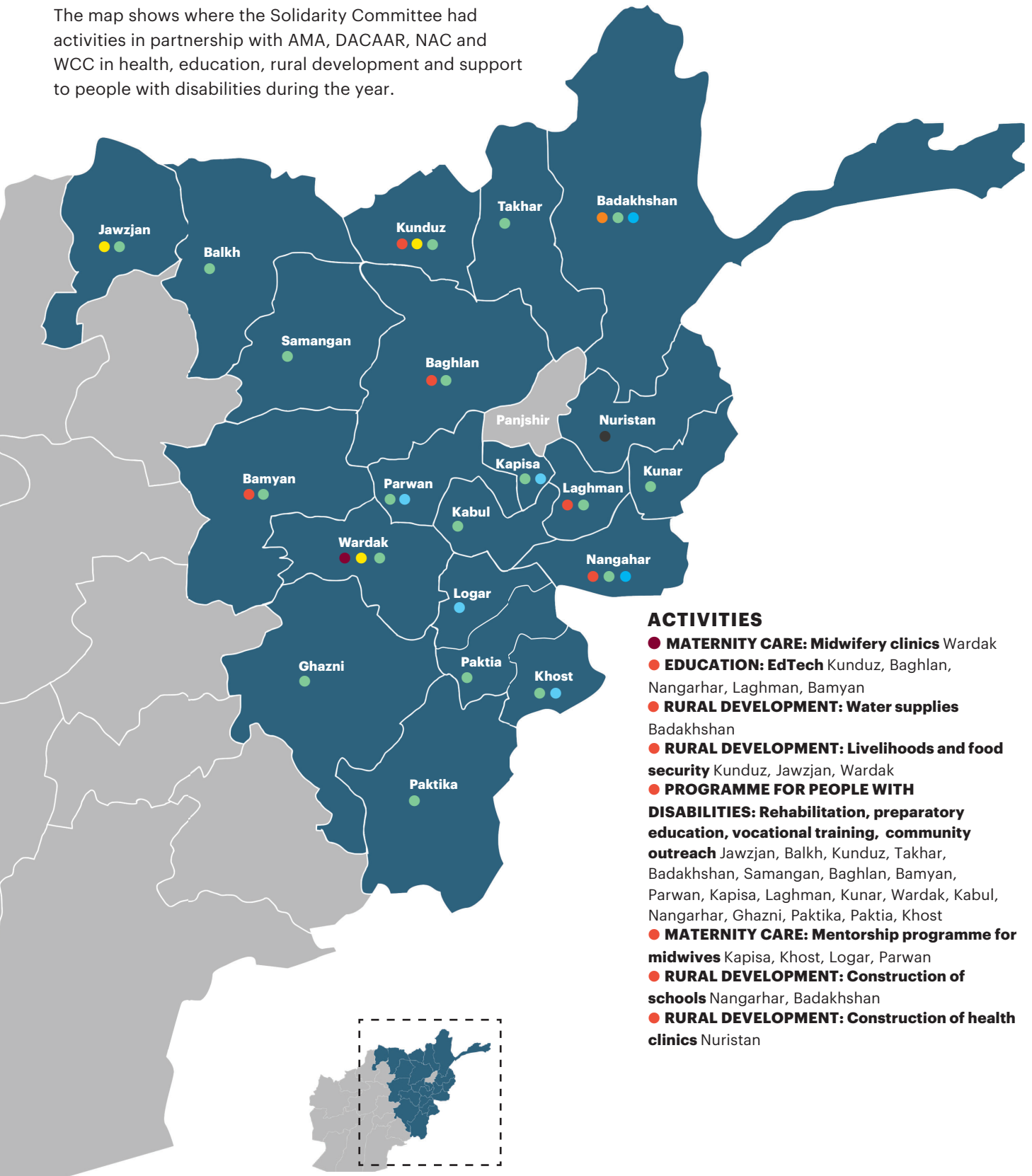
## Margareta Wahlström

Chairperson, Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan



# Activities in Afghanistan 2025

The map shows where the Solidarity Committee had activities in partnership with AMA, DACAAR, NAC and WCC in health, education, rural development and support to people with disabilities during the year.



## ACTIVITIES

- **MATERNITY CARE: Midwifery clinics** Wardak
- **EDUCATION: EdTech** Kunduz, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Laghman, Bamyan
- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Water supplies** Badakhshan
- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Livelihoods and food security** Kunduz, Jawzjan, Wardak
- **PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Rehabilitation, preparatory education, vocational training, community outreach** Jawzjan, Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Samangan, Baghlan, Bamyan, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Kunar, Wardak, Kabul, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktia, Khost
- **MATERNITY CARE: Mentorship programme for midwives** Kapisa, Khost, Logar, Parwan
- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Construction of schools** Nangarhar, Badakhshan
- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Construction of health clinics** Nuristan



# SC 's Mission and Target Groups

**SC's Vision** is an Afghanistan free from poverty where everyone's rights are fulfilled and all live in dignity.

**SC's Mission** is to contribute to building empowerment and resilience among individuals, local communities, and local organisations, primarily in rural Afghanistan, and to mobilise support and engagement for the Afghan people's rights and welfare.

**SC's Core Values** are responsiveness, impartiality, equality, social justice, and integrity. Our vision is based on the idea of a society characterised by economic and social justice, full participation of women, full inclusion of people with disabilities, and all children achieving their full potential. Our understanding of Afghanistan is grounded in decades of experience. We recognise that long-term and structural change is necessary, while we also advocate for rights and address the urgent needs of the country's population.

**SC's Target Groups** are people living in poverty and vulnerability in rural areas. Children, youth, women, and people with disabilities are prioritised target groups.



# A Year of New Beginnings

A new strategic plan, financial challenges, and a fresh start. In 2025, work was solidified with new ways to contribute to change in Afghanistan.

**2025 WAS THE FIRST YEAR** of SC's strategic plan, Change and Resilience, for 2025–2027. SC operates based on three strategic approaches that complement and strengthen each other: Partnerships for social change, policy influence for long-term change, and public engagement and advocacy in Sweden.

2025 was marked by reorientation, after the Taliban regime banned SC from operating in Afghanistan. It has been a transformative process to transition from an organisation with around 8,000 employees and a 500 million annual budget for self-implemented programmes, to becoming an organisation with 13 employees, a significantly smaller budget, and working in partnership.

In 2024, SC made a strategic decision to use a significant portion of its own reserves to ensure continuity in core operations, particularly the programme for people with disabilities. The programme continued in 2025 by the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) with funding from SC. Resources from the Postcode Lottery and Radio Aid were secured, and the EU remained an important financier of parts of the rural programme, which in 2025 was continued by DACAAR, the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees.

During the year, intensive efforts were made to find new donors. After the US and many other aid donors withdrew large portions of their aid, the competition for aid funds became even tougher, which also affected SC's funding op-

## SC's Strategic Plan

### Partnerships for Social Change

SC collaborates with local organisations, primarily in rural areas. They lead the development in their communities themselves, and SC supports them in their efforts to promote their rights and improve people's living conditions.

### Policy Influence for Long-term Change

SC works to influence political decisions and institutional structures that affect people's lives. SC targets responsible actors such as IEA's authorities, the international community, and the Swedish government. The goal is to contribute to long-term and sustainable changes at the system level.

### Public Engagement and Advocacy in Sweden

The third strategic method involves creating engagement in Sweden and strengthening support for the Afghan people. SC is a membership organisation that spreads knowledge, highlights Afghan voices, and raises funds for its activities. SC also works to increase public and political support for the Afghan people's rights.

The plan outlines **four main areas**: International cooperation with Afghanistan, development pathways in Afghanistan, the right to food, livelihood and climate justice, and the right to basic quality public services.





*2025 was a year of reorientation, both in Sweden and in Afghanistan, where work in collaboration with local partners developed.*

opportunities. Dialogue was held with Sida's Afghanistan unit during the first half of the year regarding funding after the previous agreement ended in 2024. The Swedish government's decision to end bilateral support to Afghanistan in July 2025 meant that the dialogue was interrupted. Instead, SC focused on seeking funds within Sida's thematic strategies.

**BY MID-YEAR THE FINANCIAL SITUATION** was as concerning as at the beginning of the year. This led to a reorganisation and reduction of staff in Sweden, for the second year in a row. It also meant changed conditions for the programme for people with disabilities in Afghanistan as we were forced to realise that funding for the programme as a whole could not be secured for 2026. A plan for the division and reduction of the programme was initiated in dialogue with NAC.

At the same time, SC took steps towards starting to collaborate with local organisations, both new and previous partners, which is well in line with SC's strategic plan. SC signed framework agreements with several organisations as a basis for future collaborative projects, and resumed

#### **De Facto Authorities or IEA**

When the Taliban took power, the new regime was not recognised by any other state as Afghanistan's legitimate government. In 2025, Russia became the first and so far only country to recognise the Taliban's government. Internationally, the state/Taliban is commonly referred to as the country's "de facto rulers," or de facto authorities, DFA. In Afghanistan, the state is usually called the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, IEA.

direct collaboration with the Afghan Midwives Association, AMA. With support from SC, AMA established ten midwifery clinics in rural areas of Wardak province – a start of something new.

The process of registering the Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan made significant progress, with the goal of establishing an office in Kabul. Employees at SC began traveling to Afghanistan again. During the year, follow-ups were conducted on-site together with partner organisations and meetings were held with senior representatives of the IEA to create conditions for a new REGISTRATION.

**SC HAS STRENGTHENED** its policy and advocacy work, among other things, through the publication of a series of policy briefs and a highly appreciated international conference, in a new format for SC, on the theme of how different actors can support change from within in Afghanistan. In the fall, SC was granted Sida funding for a three-year

programme to strengthen civil society organisations in Afghanistan. The programme includes, among others, organisations working for people with disabilities, traditional civil society actors in rural villages, and professional associations, including the Afghan Midwives Association. What unites the different organisations is that they are central actors for a strong civil society in Afghanistan.

Negotiations and preparations with the local partner organisations included in the programme took place during the autumn. When the programme begins in 2026, SC, through its partner organisations, will reach large parts of Afghanistan.

The agreement with Sida was an important step to demonstrate SC's continued relevance in Afghanistan and crucial for success in dialogue with other potential donors. We therefore ended the year with a brighter financial forecast than at the beginning of the year.

## SC's Partner Organisations

**ADA, Afghan Development Association.** ADA is an Afghan NGO that started in 1990 to assist refugees with emergency aid. Now, ADA focuses on long-term development work and humanitarian efforts, working in rural areas to increase livelihood opportunities, disaster risk reduction, and education.

**AMA, Afghan Midwives Association.** AMA is a membership-based professional organisation founded in 2005. AMA has over 3,500 members in 34 provinces and works to enhance the competence and empowerment of midwives to achieve the goal of high-quality maternal care for all women and children in Afghanistan.

**AOAD, Accessibility Organisation for Afghan Disabled.** AOAD is an Afghan NGO. It was founded in 2007 by people with disabilities to advocate for their rights and support people with disabilities and their families.

**DACAAR, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees.** DACAAR was founded in 1984 and is a Danish international NGO working with development aid in Afghanistan, focusing on water, sanitation, rural development, and livelihood opportunities.

**DHSA, Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan.** DHSA is an Afghan NGO founded in 1992 by demobilised Afghans with the goal of supporting civilians affected by years of war and rebuilding the country. DHSA works to strengthen civil society and is involved in educa-

tion, humanitarian support, communication, and media.

**EPTDO, Environmental Protection, Trainings and Development Organisation.** EPTDO is an Afghan NGO founded in 2020. EPTDO works on environmental protection, measures to address the effects of climate change, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

**KOO, Kabul Orthopaedic Organisation.** KOO is an Afghan NGO primarily working to support people with disabilities, especially women and children, with rehabilitation and orthopedic aids.

**NAC, Norwegian Afghanistan Committee/Afghanistan-komiteen.** NAC is a membership-based solidarity organisation founded in 1980. The programmes in Afghanistan aim to end poverty and hunger, promote good health, reduce inequality, and promote peace, inclusion, and equality.

**TLO, The Liaison Office.** TLO is an Afghan NGO founded in 2003. TLO focuses on community-led development, governance, and resilience. TLO's programmes include peacebuilding, dialogue, livelihoods, education, and the environment.

**WCC, War Child Canada.** WCC, founded in 1999, is a Canadian NGO focusing on supporting children and families affected by war and conflicts. WCC has been present in Afghanistan for over 20 years and works on child protection, education, health, and livelihood opportunities.

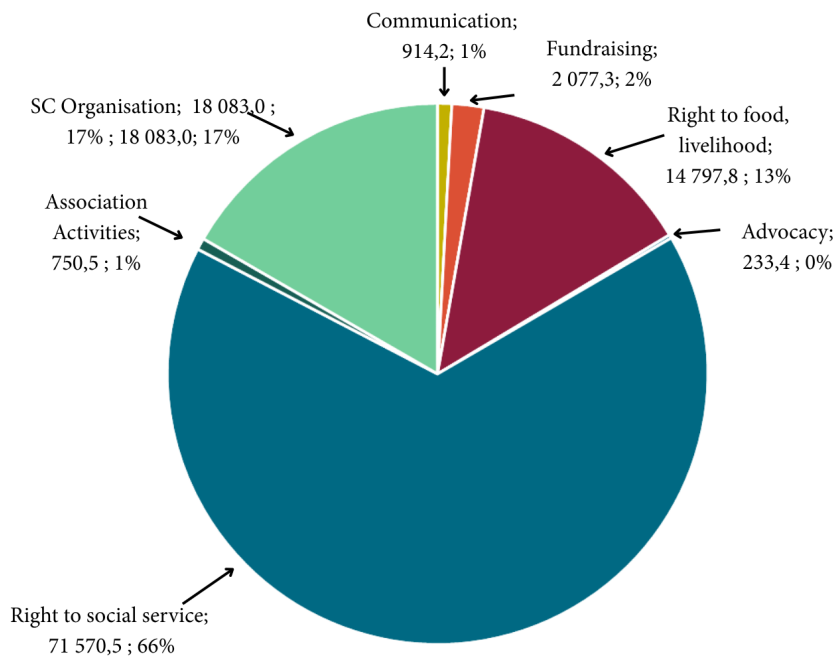


# Income and Expenses

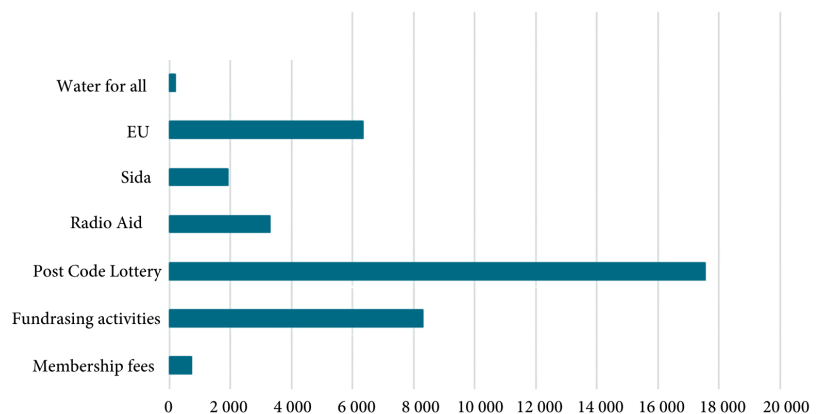
In 2025, the Postcode Lottery was the largest external financier of SC's operations. SC's own reserves made a significant contribution to the implementation of core activities, particularly to the programme for people with disabilities, which was also funded by Radio Aid. SC's fundraising was also an important source of income for that program-

me. The EU financed the rural development programme. Additionally, the reserves funded all construction projects and, together with Water for All, a WASH project (access to water, sanitation, and hygiene). Sida returned as a financier and partner when a new civil society programme was launched.

**Expenses 2025 in 000 's SEK**



**Income in 2025 in 000 's SEK**



# Situation in Afghanistan 2025

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has stabilised the country and consolidated its power. However, the population continues to suffer under the dual burden of a prolonged humanitarian crisis and the regime's repression. Girls and women are the most affected. More and more are trying to find alternatives as educational opportunities close, and the number of women starting businesses has increased.

## Humanitarian Situation

2025 was marked by continued extensive humanitarian need. The UN estimated that around 23 million people – just over half of the Afghan population – required humanitarian aid during the year. The international analysis tool for food insecurity and malnutrition, IPC, showed that about a quarter of the population experienced high levels of food insecurity and that up to four million children suffered from acute malnutrition – one of the highest levels globally.

However, the UN was forced to revise down the year's humanitarian response plan to prioritise only twelve million people, as total aid to Afghanistan shrank by about 30 percent during the year. The main reason was the shutdown of the American aid agency USAID, but other bilateral donors also reduced their contributions. The Swedish government chose during the year to completely phase out development aid to Afghanistan, remaining only with humanitarian aid.

The healthcare system in Afghanistan, which is mainly funded by aid, was reported to be at breaking point as 422 healthcare facilities and more than 300 nutrition units were forced to close during the year due to lack of funding.

The situation was exacerbated by the large forced return

of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and Iran. Since the end of 2023, more than four million have returned, nearly half of whom arrived between March and August 2025. This has accelerated the already rapid population growth and put a strain on a weak labour market and fragile public services. Tensions within local communities are increasing as competition for scarce resources grows. The economy at large has also been affected, as remittances – funds sent home by expatriate workers – have decreased. According to the World Bank, the country's GDP has shrunk by about 25 percent since the Taliban takeover.

**AFGHANISTAN IS RANKED** by the UN Environment Programme UNEP among the world's most climate-vulnerable and least climate-adapted countries. But as the regime is not internationally recognised, Afghanistan does not have access to global climate financing and was thus excluded from participation at COP30 in Brazil.

Since three out of four jobs in the country depend on climate-sensitive agriculture, the increasingly intense periods of drought and flooding have exacerbated unemployment, worsened food insecurity, and driven people to flee. Today, climate-related disasters are considered the main driver of internal displacement, while conflict was the dominant factor before the takeover. In 2025, the number of internally





Street scene from Kabul, summer 2025.

displaced persons in the country amounted to about four million. Authorities have pressured them to return to their home areas and called for support from aid actors. The capacity to provide the comprehensive and long-term support required for climate adaptation and sustainable resettlement is low, as most aid consists of short-term humanitarian support.

Afghanistan is repeatedly hit by earthquakes, and several tremors were recorded in 2025. The largest, with its epicenter in remote parts of Kunar province, claimed over 2,000 lives on August 31, injured many more, and destroyed infrastructure and livelihoods.

### Human Rights

The year was marked by continued violations of human rights. The regime's leader, the Kandahar-based emir Hibatullah Akhundzada, has consolidated his power across the country by strengthening the oversight of decrees through the moral police, intelligence service, and local religious

### The Struggle for Power between Kabul and Kandahar

The power in Afghanistan is primarily divided between the capital Kabul and the southern province of Kandahar. In the former, there are ministries and authorities, while in the latter, the religious leader, the emir, is present. Generally, the authorities in Kabul are more liberal regarding, for example, the rights of women and girls, whereas Kandahar represents an extremely conservative faction of the Taliban. In recent years, more power has been concentrated around the emir and a small group of advisers surrounding him. This, combined with the differences in values and perceptions of how Afghanistan should be governed and developed, has led to increased tensions between Kabul and Kandahar. The emir has also managed to take control of virtually the entire country, which historically has been very unusual in Afghanistan.



councils. By the end of 2025, a total of 470 decrees had been issued since the takeover, 79 of which specifically concerned women and girls.

The implementation of the law on the promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, adopted in the autumn of 2024, has given the moral police extensive powers to regulate and monitor citizens' behaviour. The law includes requirements for

dress and conduct. This particularly affects women and girls, who, in addition to previous restrictions preventing them from studying beyond grade 6 and participating in large parts of the labour market, can now also be punished for travelling without a male guardian or for not wearing a full veil. Women who have been subjected to violence and abuse risk being accused of moral crimes.

**AS PART OF THE RESTRICTIONS** on women's education, a ban was also introduced in 2025 on the previously allowed vocational training for women in nursing and midwifery programmes. This is expected to have serious long-term consequences for an already vulnerable healthcare system and for the ability to reduce high maternal and child mortality rates.

At the same time, the demand for girls' education remains strong. The number of girls enrolled in primary and middle school increased from about two million in 2021 to nearly three million in 2024. A survey by the UN agency UN Women among over 2,000 Afghans in both cities and rural areas showed that a full 92 percent of respondents considered it important for girls to continue their schooling. In the absence of public schools for girls beyond grade 6, more and more families have started hiring private teachers or enrolling their daughters in religious girls' schools that offer



*A law regulates how women should dress.*

PHOTO: CAJSA WIKSTROM

equivalent middle and high school education. These combine religious instruction with secular subjects to varying degrees.

During the year, an increase in Afghan women in small-scale entrepreneurship was noted, such as the production of handicrafts, sanitary products, and food. As the IEA accepts such activities as long as rules regarding gender segregation, dress, and male accompaniment are followed, it provides a limited but important space for women's participation in the labour market and the pursuit of economic empowerment.

## Economy

According to the World Bank, the Afghan economy has settled into a new equilibrium after shrinking by about 25 percent since the regime change, due to international sanctions, reduced civilian and military aid, and the effects of extreme weather. The rapidly growing population combined with a stagnant economy means a declining GDP per capita from an already very low level.

Despite the meager conditions, the IEA has managed to finance its state budget solely with its own revenues. This has been achieved by strengthening the tax system they inherited, maintaining customs duties, combatting corruption, and downsizing the state apparatus. However, the IEA does not disclose how revenues are used, but according to estimates, up to 40 percent goes to security expenses, mainly in the form of salaries for police and military.

## Politics and International Relations

The regime has largely managed to keep the movement together and act cohesively. In cases where internal disagreement has been expressed publicly, the response from Kandahar has been to describe dissenters as enemies of the Islamic order and warn of the consequences. The emir set a clear example at the beginning of 2025 by issuing an arrest warrant for Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Stanikzai, who on several occasions openly questioned the ban on girls' education. Stanikzai managed to flee to the United Arab Emirates and has not returned since.

During the year, UN-led talks continued between the Taliban regime and the international community in the so-called Doha process. The dialogue aims to clarify expecta-

tions and conditions for a possible future reintegration of Afghanistan into the international community. The process has yet to show real momentum, although the technical working groups set up around drug control and support for the private sector can be seen as confidence-building measures, which in the long term may enable the handling of even more politically sensitive issues. The process has been criticised from various quarters for not including women or non-Taliban leadership from Afghanistan.

**MEANWHILE, RELATIONS WITHIN THE REGION** have developed, where dialogues and agreements on trade, investments, and security have been prioritised over ideological differences. The relationship with Russia was particularly noted in 2025 when the country became the first and so far only one to recognise the IEA. Moscow justified the decision with the

need for pragmatic security policy, especially regarding the fight against terrorism – including the Afghan IS branch ISKP – as well as the need for regional stability and trade relations. The decision can also be seen as part of Russia's broader ambition to strengthen its influence in the region, while the Western world continues to isolate the IEA.

Relations with neighbouring Pakistan remained tense. Afghanistan is accused of harbouring and supporting the Pakistani Taliban movement TTP, which has carried out attacks in Pakistan – something the IEA denies. Areas along the border have been subjected to repeated attacks from both sides, and Pakistan has also used air force. In October, an agreement was reached in Qatar on a ceasefire. At the same time, the relationship with Pakistan's arch-rival India has strengthened, expressed through, among other things,



PHOTO: CAUSA WIKSTRÖM

*Kabul risks becoming the first modern city to deplete all its water reserves.*



a visit in October by the IEA's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to his Indian counterpart in New Delhi.

In August, the IEA launched a five-year development strategy, with the vision of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan with good regional and global relations. The strategy signals a shift from focusing on stabilising a crisis to development and state-building.

It includes concepts such as transparency, social justice, rights, and equality. On the surface, they appear to be consistent with global norms, but there is a significant difference in meaning and application based on the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic law.

In 2025, the UN Human Rights Council, UNHRC, adopted a resolution on the situation in Afghanistan and established an independent international investigative mechanism. The purpose is to gather evidence of serious human rights violations and war crimes for possible future legal proceedings.

### First City Without Water

Kabul risks becoming the first modern city to have depleted all its water reserves. According to estimates from UNICEF, the groundwater could be completely depleted by 2030.

Kabul's groundwater levels have plummeted 25–30 metres over the past ten years, with extraction exceeding natural replenishment by 44 million cubic metres annually.

UNICEF's estimates show that nearly half of Kabul's water boreholes, the main source of drinking water for Kabul residents, are already dried up. Over 120,000 unregulated wells, along with hundreds of factories and greenhouses, are depleting Kabul's three main groundwater reservoirs at a rate almost twice as fast as they can be naturally replenished.

Climate change has severely exacerbated the crisis. Precipitation has significantly decreased, including in vital catchment areas that replenish Kabul's groundwater.

Failure to build a functioning infrastructure, unregulated water drilling, and lack of maintenance are other major contributing factors.



PHOTO: KAJISA JOHANSSON

### Civil Society

The IEA is ambivalent towards the formal civil society. It can attribute value to aid actors in meeting both humanitarian and development needs and favours when it occurs through Afghan organisations. However, they take a clearly negative stance towards actors who explicitly focus on human rights and gender equality, which is often seen as an expression of "social engineering" contrary to the Taliban's interpretation of sharia.

However, attitudes towards traditional structures in rural areas, such as village councils and local councils, are more positive. Through their social authority, these bodies have shown to have some influence over local authorities. Overall, however, the civil society's space for action remained very limited in 2025. Many organisations and media actors have been forced to adapt both their working methods and language to avoid provoking the IEA and being subjected to repression.

The internet, which since the Taliban takeover has been an important arena for education, news dissemination, and activism, was restricted during the year, initially by the IEA disconnecting fiber optic connections in several provinces citing the prevention of immorality. In September, a nationwide shutdown followed for a few days. After appeals from both civil society and the business sector – and finally even ministers who warned of the effects on the IEA's administration – Kandahar restored the internet. However, there are reports of continued restrictions on connectivity, online services, and social media.



Facts	Afghanistan	Sweden	Source
Estimated Population	43.8 million	10.7 million	UNFPA, 2025
Life Expectancy at Birth	Women 68 Men 65	Women 85 Men 82	UNFPA, 2025
Share of the population 0-14 years 15-64 years 65 years +	43% 55% 2%	16.7% 62.4% 15.7% (over 70)	UNFPA, 2025
Number of children per woman	4.7	1.4	UNFPA, 2025
Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births	521	4	UNFPA, 2023/2025
Estimated under-5 child mortality, per 1,000	55.5	2.5	UNICEF, 2023
GDP per capita per year	413.8 USD	57,117 USD	World Bank, 2023/2024

### Statistics – Uncertain and Often Incomplete

Statistical data on Afghanistan should be interpreted with some caution. Many figures are based on estimates rather than complete data collection. Varying methods and a lack of current surveys mean that information on population, economy, education, and health may be uncertain or incomplete.



# Engagement, communication and advocacy

Afghanistan has increasingly been overshadowed in Sweden. SC plays a central role in increasing knowledge, nuancing the image, and showing that it is possible to make a concrete difference.

**AFGHANISTAN HAS LARGELY FADED** from view in Swedish foreign policy discussions, partly as a result of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The country has received limited media attention, and when it is covered, it is often in negative contexts, with a recurring narrative that positive change is impossible under Taliban rule. The same attitude is reflected in Swedish policy, where Afghanistan has been heavily deprioritised.

Against this background, the Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan (SC) plays a central role in increasing knowledge about Afghanistan, contributing a more nuanced understanding of the situation, and highlighting that it is still possible to make a concrete difference for the population. This has been done through, for example, the magazine \*Afghanistan-nytt\*, social media presence, as well as seminars, lectures, meetings with politicians, and other activities organised by the secretariat and local associations.

## Advocacy and Public Awareness

SC works to ensure continued strong support for the people of Afghanistan. A key advocacy issue during the year was

pushing for a renewed bilateral development cooperation strategy for Afghanistan. SC sought meetings with all parliamentary parties and met representatives from seven of them during the year.

In April, a well-attended seminar was organised in the Swedish Parliament under the title \*‘‘Afghanistan in Crisis – How Can Sweden Make a Difference?’’\*, where SC demonstrated the possibilities of supporting the Afghan population without benefitting the Taliban regime.

SC also invited the political youth organisations to a roundtable discussion in Almedalen on the same theme. In addition to meetings with individual politicians, SC approached the Ministry for Foreign Affairs together with other organisations in Sweden operating in Afghanistan. In July, however, it was announced that the country strategy would be discontinued—although the government stated that it still intended to support Afghanistan’s women and girls. SC responded with an op-ed asking how the government intends to support Afghan women—whom it has identified as a priority group—solely through humanitarian aid. That question has yet to be answered.





PHOTO: KAUSA JOHANSSON

*Voting at the annual meeting in Uddevalla, where a hundred members participated.*

**ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER**, DN Debatt published an article where SC, together with 13 experts and former ambassadors, urged the Swedish government to engage in dialogue with the Taliban regime as isolation has negative consequences for the civilian population.

SC initiated during the year a series of policy briefs exploring some of the challenges Afghanistan faces today, with a particular focus on how the civilian population is affected. The briefs are aimed at policymakers, institutional donors, authorities, and academics, among others, and aim to contribute to knowledge-based policy decisions regarding Afghanistan. As part of SC's broader policy work, the briefs serve as a tool to create engagement around important issues. They can, for example, form the basis for seminars where various actors gather to discuss the country's development. Themes from the policy briefs can also be high-

lighted from a journalistic perspective in *Afghanistan-nytt*, which helps spread knowledge about important policy issues among SC's members.

SC's international conference, which takes place every other year, was conducted in a new format on a smaller scale at the SC office, as a series of roundtable discussions over two days. The conference brought together about forty researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss governance under the Taliban, education, opportunities for women's economic participation, the role of civil society, the country's exclusion from global climate processes, as well as migration and return issues.

**THE FORMAT WAS PERCEIVED** as constructive by the participants as many different voices were given space in discussions that were not limited to panels. The discussions and





*Rangina Hamidi teaches at Thunderbird School of Global Management and runs the company Kandahar Treasure. She was one of the participants at the international conference.*

the recommendations presented were summarised in a policy brief and recommendations presented were summarised in a policy brief.

To influence decision-makers and policymakers beyond Sweden, SC took the initiative to reactivate the European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA), a network for joint advocacy work at the EU level. About 15 organisations gathered in Brussels in December to identify themes for joint initiatives, such as the need for climate financing.

## Communication

The magazine Afghanistan-nytt was published with four issues and an average circulation of 5,450 per issue. The goal of the magazine is to increase knowledge about and engagement for the people of Afghanistan and for SC's activities. The magazine reports on Afghanistan in general, SC's activities, and the membership movement. A longer theme explores news and developments in depth. The themes for 2025 addressed press freedom, Afghan music, human rights, and tourism.

On the website, the pages "Get to Know Afghanistan," with information about, for example, the situation of women, history, and society, continue to be the most visited, which shows the website's importance for people seeking knowledge in Swedish about Afghanistan. Due to limited resources, however, the website has not been developed and updated to the extent planned, which will be prioritised in 2026.

As part of the work with the registration of the Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan in Afghanistan, a change of visual identity in English was carried out. The aim was to ensure a clear change from the previous visual identity. The blue map was replaced with a green crocus. The crocus alludes to vitality, Afghanistan's extensive saffron production largely driven by women, and generally to living conditions in rural areas. The change was immediately reflected on SC's English website and social media, as well as in several key documents such as the strategic plan.

## Membership Movement

SC had 2,690 members in 2025, which is a decrease of about six percent from 2024. Eight out of ten local associations had an active board, and a total of 71 activities were organised by the local associations.

After a year of uncertainty about the organisation's and activities' future, there was a need for a concrete unifying force to mobilise member engagement. The idea of a fundraising competition emerged, and the starting shot was fired at the annual meeting in May. The competition created great engagement and a fundraising result far beyond expectations.

In 2025, the secretariat focused on finding more ways for engagement than the current local association model. Among other things, SC worked on finding engagement for

## Policy Brief Series Launched

An important part of the transition to becoming a more prominent policy actor has been to publish policy briefs on themes closely related to SC's prioritised advocacy issues and our operations. In 2025, four policy briefs were published.

- Supporting Civil Society in Afghanistan – Critical Reflections of the Past and Recommendations for the Future
- Left Behind: Afghanistan's Exclusion from Global Climate Finance
- Collateral Damage: The Civilian Toll of Sanctions in Afghanistan
- Between Ambition and Reality: Lessons Learned from the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan



*Rebekah Krebs from the secretariat together with Björn-Åke Törnblom, active in the local association in Stockholm, at SC's booth during the Human Rights Days in Kista in December.*

Afghanistan in places in the country that today do not have an active local association. For example, collaborations with local associations around events in both Umeå and Luleå were carried out in 2025. The large turnout shows that such collaborations have the potential to reach more young people and people of Afghan origin.

## Fundraising

The 2025 fundraising yielded good results despite challenging conditions. 8.3 million kronor were raised, exceeding the goal set for the year. To stimulate innovative thinking about fundraising at a time when the organisation's self-financing has become increasingly important, a temporary fundraising council was established to connect with com-

panies and philanthropists, while the fundraising manager received further training in attracting larger donors.

SC participated in Giva Sverige's forum and was highlighted as an example of a way out of the crisis while maintaining trust. Efforts were made to reach new target groups via the digital tool Adoveo and through the local associations' fundraising competition, while loyal donors continued to contribute with high average donations through, among other things, postal letters. The number of monthly donors continued to decrease slightly without a dramatic drop. The year also included a significant donation from a second-hand business and a bequest to maternity care work in Afghanistan.

## Examples of activities organised by the member movement or the secretariat

### January

- SC: Launch of strategic plan 2025-2027

### February

- SC Södertälje: Phone calls, reacquisition of former members

### March

- SC: Seminar with a midwifery theme
- SC Skövde/Skaraborg: Demonstration for women's rights
- SC Uppsala: Career day at Uppsala University

### April

- SC Gothenburg: Culture evening
- SC Skövde/Skaraborg: Book club
- SC Stockholm: Lecture

### May

- SC Vänersborg: Participation in Dalaberg Day

### June

- SC Stockholm: Midsummer quiz on social media, "What do you know about Afghanistan?"
- SC Södertälje: Exhibition – Strength in Adversity
- SC: Panel discussion with Rescue in Almedalen

### August

- SC: Webinar on women's situation on the anniversary of



PHOTO: THOMAS MAGNUSSON

Author Louise Körnung in conversation with SC's Secretary General Kajsa Johansson at Skara Library.

the takeover

- SC Skövde/Skaraborg: Open book club

### September

- SC Skövde/Skaraborg: Author visit by Louise Körnung
- SC Skåne: Stroller march together with RFSU
- SC Södertälje: Fundraising for World's Children

### October

- SC Gothenburg: Seminar together with the University of Gothenburg
- SC Vänersborg: Coffee together with the UN Association
- SC Dalarna: Coffee for Afghanistan in collaboration with the Mission Church in Rättvik.

### November

- SC Stockholm: Fundraising dinner for the opening of a midwifery clinic in Afghanistan
- SC Skövde/Skaraborg: Saffron sale
- SC: SC's international conference – Supporting Change from Within: Rethinking International Engagement with Afghanistan

### December

- SC Dalarna: Coffee for Afghanistan in Rättvik and inauguration of the photo exhibition Strength in Adversity at the Cultural House in Rättvik. The exhibition was then on display for the rest of the year.
- SC Skåne: Participation in "Kulturrens" Christmas market in Lund
- SC Uppsala: Fair Christmas



PHOTO: BJÖRN O HENRIKSSON

Fika for Afghanistan and the first day of SC's photo exhibition "Strength in Adversity" at Kulturhuset in Rättvik.

# Competition Raised Money for Two Clinics

**DURING 2025** A COMPETITION WAS ONGOING among local associations to raise funds for a maternity clinic. The goal was to collectively raise enough to start and operate a clinic for a year, but the result was double that.

In 2025, SC launched a project together with the Afghan Midwives Association, AMA, to start ten maternity clinics in rural Wardak, staffed with a midwife. The funds initially come from SC's own reserves. The idea for the competition came from the membership movement, with the aim of both creating engagement and concretely raising funds for an initiative.

The local associations' collected funds were divided by the number of members so that everyone could participate with equal chances of winning. It was the local association in Södertälje that won.



PHOTO: HANNEKE KOUWENBERG

*The local association in Skåne at the Christmas market in Lund and Margareta Varenhed cycling to France.*

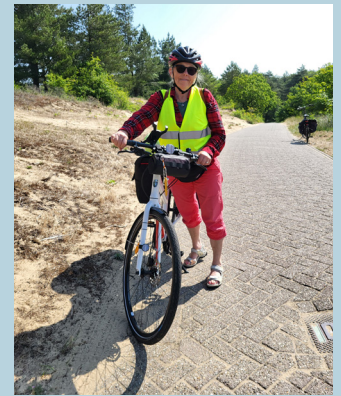


PHOTO: PRIVATE

– It was fun, both for us and because it went so well for all the local associations, says Hasse Hansson, chairman of the local association in Södertälje.

They raised money by selling a lot of saffron and through collections at activities but also through mailings to members who in turn collected money from friends and acquaintances and took their own initiatives to sell saffron.

– It has felt like a restart with the clinics. It gives an extra drive to be part of building something new, he says. The local association in Stockholm

was the one that raised the most money in total. It has, among other things, invested in social media campaigns and ended the year with a fundraising dinner, which attracted about 60 people. Individual members have sold homemade bags and organised flea markets. All local associations have raised funds for the clinics in connection with various activities, such as the Stroller March in Malmö, the Book Fair in Gothenburg, Christmas markets, and lectures – and in Skövde/Skaraborg, member Margareta Varenhed raised money in connection with her cycling from Sweden to southern France.



PHOTO: LAURA LINDHOLM

*The local association in Gothenburg at the Book Fair.*



PHOTO: WASIM FAHIM

*Fundraising Dinner in Stockholm.*

# Rural Development

Many Afghans in rural areas have difficulty making a living. Climate change and recurring natural disasters worsen the situation. SC works together with partner organisations to strengthen the resilience of the rural population.

**A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION** in rural Afghanistan lives in a vulnerable situation with limited means of livelihood, difficulties accessing financing for their own businesses, and reaching markets where goods can be sold.

Many households lack a stable income and the resources needed to earn money, such as land or other productive assets.

Climate change, recurring natural risks, and a lack of local structures for disaster preparedness, including water management, further exacerbate the situation. At the same time, there is a need for strengthened social cohesion and increased knowledge of rights and conflict management at the local level.

To strengthen the resilience and livelihood opportunities of the rural population, SC works with partner organisations on various types of interventions.

## Livelihood Opportunities and Food Security in a Time of Crisis

During 2025, the rural development programme, implemented by the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), contributed to strengthening livelihood opportunities, economic empowerment, and climate

adaptation capacity in the provinces of Wardak, Kunduz, and Jawzjan.

**A CENTRAL PART** of the programme has been to enhance households' access to financial resources. During the year, 851 savings and loan groups were established with a total of 17,020 members, half of which are women. Through internal lending, 710 members have been able to invest in small-scale income activities. The low proportion is due to the savings groups having only been active for six months before the end of the year, and thus not having saved enough capital.

The savings groups have been combined with training initiatives in accounting, credit provision, and group management, which strengthens both economic competence and local organisation. In parallel, the programme has invested in vocational training and small business development. Following market analyses, 1,206 women and men were offered training in professions with local demand. The support was particularly directed towards young people and other vulnerable groups and aimed to create long-term livelihood opportunities.

In the agricultural sector, 553 farmers received support in the form of inputs and training in improved cultivation methods, while 124 producer groups were formed to





Mohammad Mahbadi presents his final project in a vocational training on installing solar panels, a blueprint on how a mill can be powered by solar energy. The participants come from villages in the Behsud district of Wardak province. The vocational training is part of the project for improved livelihood opportunities.

strengthen cooperation and links to the market. Dialogue and agreements between producers and market actors, such as buyers and traders, have been initiated to create more sustainable value chains.

It was particularly important that women participated equally with men in savings groups and vocational training. This strengthens women's economic agency in a very restrictive context.

Among those reached by the activities are also returning migrants from neighbouring countries Iran and Pakistan, and internally displaced persons. 209 returnees (120 men,

**Some of the results during 2025:**

Established savings and loan groups	851
Members in Savings Groups	17,020 (50% women)
Individuals who received internal loans	710 (43% women)
Individuals who have completed vocational training	1,206 (50% women)
Installed Irrigation Channels	3.0 miles
Completed Agricultural and Climate-Adaptive Protection Structures	55 constructions benefiting 13,506 (57% women)
Formed Disaster Committees	133
People trained in disaster risk reduction	3,150 (42% women)
Participants in Rights and Inclusion Initiatives	4,162 (65% women)



89 women) and 75 internally displaced persons (49 men, 26 women) have participated in activities such as savings and loan groups, small business training, disaster risk reduction training, and vocational training in poultry farming.

**THE PROGRAMME HAS** also included investments in agricultural infrastructure and climate adaptation. 55 local communities have received improved infrastructure, including the installation of nearly five kilometers of irrigation channels. Climate-related initiatives have included support for climate-smart farming, the establishment of orchards, and the construction of protective structures to reduce vulnerability to floods and erosion. At the same time, 133 local disaster committees have been formed and trained to strengthen communities' preparedness and capacity to handle climate-related risks.

In addition to economic and technical interventions, the programme has worked on social cohesion and inclusion. Information initiatives on women's rights and the rights of people with disabilities have reached 4,162 participants (65 percent women), and training in conflict management has been conducted to prevent local tensions in connection with the project's activities.

**THE FOLLOW-UP OF** the programme focuses largely on the activities carried out and direct results (outputs). At the same time, it is important to monitor over time how the interventions contribute to more long-term change in the form of sustainable livelihood opportunities, increased resilience, and strengthened local capacity. Such follow-up is planned to be deepened in 2026.

The work has been carried out in a complex context that during the year was affected by administrative delays and logistical obstacles: Registration of the project with the authorities took time, and closed borders between Pakistan and Afghanistan delayed parts of the planned agricultural support.

## New Schools and Clinics

During 2025, the construction of two schools, in Nangarhar and Badakhshan, and three healthcare clinics in Nuristan, was completed in collaboration with local communities and

relevant authorities. All facilities have been handed over to local actors for continued operation and maintenance. The implementation took place under challenging conditions with difficult terrain, winter weather, and time-consuming administrative processes, which caused delays. The local anchoring and collaboration with local authorities and various councils are simultaneously assessed to have strengthened the conditions for long-term use and sustainability.

### Schools and Clinics

Completed Constructions	5 (2 schools and 3 clinics)
Children who gained access to an improved educational environment	566 (205 girls and 361 boys)
People who gained increased access to healthcare services	170,096 (43,498 women, 45,273 men, 39,865 girls, and 41,360 boys)

## Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH

Afghanistan continues to face a serious and prolonged WASH crisis, due to prolonged conflict, climate impact, economic downturn, and insufficient investments in basic public services. Millions of people lack access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, especially in rural and hard-to-reach regions.

When SC's operations were suspended, eight ongoing WASH projects were left incomplete. They were handed over to DACAAR at the end of 2024 for completion in 2025. During 2025, funding was secured for seven of these. One of the projects resumed in Badakhshan in November 2025 and will be completed in 2026 with co-financing from DACAAR, Water for All, and SC's own funds. Badakhshan province is characterised by very high vulnerability, insecure water sources, and recurring climate-related stresses.

The project completes a gravity-based water supply system that is estimated to provide access to clean water for over 60,000 people. The work is combined with local capacity building for operation and maintenance to strengthen long-term functionality and resilience.



# Hope for Livelihood – and Chance to Meet

**THE SAVINGS AND LOAN GROUP IN THE VILLAGE** Seyahbota gives the participating women hope for a livelihood. Almost as important is meeting and sharing joys and concerns with each other.

Seyahbota is located at an altitude of 2,400 metres in the mountains of Behsud 1 district in Wardak province. The women describe life there as poor and difficult. Some men are unemployed, others work in agriculture on their own or others' land.

The women in the savings and loan group save money together and lend to each other. The loans can go to urgent needs, such as food and medical visits, but when there is enough money in the fund, several plan to take loans to start their own businesses.

Habiba Halimi manages the fund and has received training in bookkeeping.

– I live with my parents. Our situation is not so good. I hope to start my own business and earn money so that I can contribute financially.

Habiba Halimi has several ideas about what she can work with: dairy, poultry, or tailoring.

Sima Halimi also lives with her parents and wants to be able to contribute to



*Habiba Halimi and Sima Halimi.*

family's income. Her plan is to become a seamstress, something she has already started to learn. But both Sima and Habiba actually had other dreams.

Sima would like to complete the nursing education she started. Habiba wants to study English. The Taliban regime has stopped those opportunities. The savings and loan group becomes an important opportunity to still be

able to support themselves. And for something else, almost as important.

– Since we talk about our problems and what we need help with, we have gotten to know each other. This is also a social activity. We have time to sit and talk. It provides a good opportunity to become aware of how others are doing and support each other, says Habiba Halimi.

# Programme for people with disabilities

People with disabilities in Afghanistan face extensive discrimination and stigmatisation, as well as very limited access to education, employment, and sources of income. The programme for people with disabilities includes a range of initiatives to support education, livelihood, and rehabilitation.

**AFGHANISTAN HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST** prevalence rates of disability in the world. According to the Model Disability Survey of Afghanistan, an estimated 13.9 percent of the population lives with a severe disability.

This is a result of decades of armed conflict, widespread poverty, recurring natural disasters, a fragile and underfunded healthcare system, and a high incidence of consanguineous marriages over generations.

People with disabilities face extensive discrimination, including limited access to quality rehabilitation and assistive devices, widespread stigmatisation, and limited access to education due to a lack of, or insufficient, inclusive learning environments and the ongoing ban on girls' education, as well as to employment and income sources.

The programme for people with disabilities, handed over to

NAC at the end of 2024, operates according to an integrated model that combines community-based rehabilitation and institution-based interventions. Collaboration with national authorities has been strengthened to increase long-term sustainability.

## Rehabilitation

Despite major challenges – such as inadequate infrastructure, stigma, and hard-to-reach areas – the programme has continued to deliver essential services through six regional offices. During the period from August 2024 to December 2025, over 51,000 people were reached with rehabilitation and psychosocial support, of which nearly 25,000 were women, which was 21 percent above the target for the year. The proportion of people in the catchment area who gained access to assistive devices through the programme exceeded the target (30 percent compared to the planned 12 percent), and 92.5 percent of recipients reported be-





*Orthopedic technician Shahla at NAC's rehabilitation center in Mazar-e Sharif is creating a support for Samira's leg so she can walk without issues. Samira contracted polio when she was a small child.*

ing satisfied with the interventions. In total, 88 percent of patients reported that their health condition improved after treatment through the programme. Of these, 41 percent reported a clear improvement and 47 percent some improvement. Additionally, the number of health and rehabilitation personnel trained in disability and integrated rehabilitation totaled 998 people (479 women).

**WHILE THE RESULTS** show high goal achievement and positive outcomes, the follow-up mainly concerns direct results and self-reported improvements. Continued follow-up over time is important to assess the extent to which the interventions lead to lasting improvements in quality of life and opportunities for the target groups.

New outreach rehabilitation units were established, including to support returning migrants and to quickly assist in natural disasters. After the earthquake in Kunar in August, interventions were mobilised within 24 hours, with a particular focus on women and girls.

### **Information and Behaviour Change**

Working to change attitudes and behaviours is central to ensuring long-term change, as improved knowledge and changed behaviours reduce dependence on external interventions and contribute to lasting improvements in health and quality of life. As part of efforts to improve health and rehabilitation behaviours among people with disabilities,

locally anchored information and education initiatives were carried out. A total of 25,502 people, both people with disabilities and relatives, were reached through information initiatives about the importance of and access to rehabilitation, of which 56 percent were women. Additionally, 7,031 people participated in training on health-promoting behaviours. The initiatives were carried out both at rehabilitation centres and through outreach work in communities and homes, supported by local rehabilitation workers. A follow-up in 2025 shows that 88 percent of people with disabilities in the intervention areas follow recommended rehabilitation advice at home.

## Preparatory Education for Children with Disabilities

Through support to NAC, SC also worked to strengthen access to inclusive and quality education by developing learning environments and teaching in special and preparatory education.

During the period, the target for the number of children and adults with disabilities who received support through special and preparatory education initiatives was exceeded. In total, just over 2,600 people were reached, of which 42 percent were girls/women. The positive result is partly explained by the inclusion of new districts. A total of 154 centres were established and supported at the provincial and village levels, further increasing access to inclusive education, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

**TO STRENGTHEN QUALITY,** 385 staff members were trained in special education (209 women and 176 men). This has contributed to more uniform working methods and improved quality in teaching. As part of the follow-up, knowledge tests were conducted with students in preparatory education. The results show that 100 percent of students in grade 3 can identify letters, compared to 89 percent in grade 2. Regarding writing simple texts, 53 percent of students in grade 3 managed this, compared to 48 percent in grade 2. Although some students and areas need additional support, the overall study results are good.

In mathematics, students' skills were measured at five levels – from no knowledge to simple addition. The results show

clear improvements: 92 percent can identify numbers; 90 percent can count and group objects; 75 percent can compare numbers; 60 percent can perform simple addition. The efforts in special and preparatory education create better conditions for students' transition to the regular school system and for increased participation in the community. To better assess these long-term effects, a follow-up of changes in the target group in selected regions is planned.

## Strengthened Livelihood Opportunities

Within the framework of efforts to improve livelihood opportunities, vocational training was conducted in 15 provinces. 485 people (56 percent women) completed training in market-adapted professions such as sewing, computer skills, mobile repair, and carpentry, which exceeded the set target.

In Kabul, 18 women with hearing and visual impairments received tailored training to ensure inclusive access to work and livelihood. The goal was to increase the monthly income for people with disabilities by 62 percent through vocational training and livelihood interventions. By the end of 2025, participants' average monthly income had increased by 211 percent to 2,328 AFN (approximately 343 SEK).

### Some of the Programme's Results

People reached with information about the rights of children with disabilities	41,660 (48% women)
Special Educators Trained	348 (55% women)
People with disabilities who completed vocational training	485 (56% women)
People who received physical therapy, orthopedic services, or psychosocial support	51,255 (48% women)
Children and adults with disabilities who gained access to special and preparatory education	2,624 (42% girls/women)





*Fatima Sherzad and some of her classmates at the preparatory education in Mazar-e Sharif in the Balkh province. Fatima has a hearing impairment.*



# Maternity Care

Maternal mortality in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world. Through the partnership with the Afghan Midwives Association, AMA, SC supports maternal care with rural clinics and mentorship programmes.

**ALMOST 80 PERCENT OF YOUNG WOMEN** and girls in Afghanistan lack access to education, work, and vocational training according to the UN Gender Index, 2024. Since December 2024, restrictions on women's participation in education and work have tightened. Women have been prohibited from participating in health education, including midwifery and nursing training.

Maternal mortality in Afghanistan was already one of the highest in the world, and the situation has worsened over the past year due to the US withdrawing its aid in 2025. This led to the closure of over 400 healthcare facilities, which particularly affected women in a situation where their access to healthcare was already very limited. There are signs that maternal mortality is increasing.

Restrictions on women's work in civil society organisations have impacted the activities supported by SC, requiring adapted working methods for organisations like the Afghan Midwives Association, AMA, to continue reaching women.

Through the partnership with AMA, SC has continued to support locally rooted and women-led initiatives to address challenges in maternal health as well as women's participation in community life. The mentorship programme for midwives, a relatively unique and valuable programme to strengthen midwives' competence in collaboration with health authorities and healthcare partners, was implemented at 22 health clinics and exceeded planned goals. The initiative reached 50 midwives in four provinces and contributed to better adherence to guidelines based on international

standards, improved documentation and teamwork, and more respectful and quality maternal care. 92 percent of participants improved their clinical skills in basic maternal and neonatal care, including antenatal care, delivery care, neonatal resuscitation, family planning, and respectful and hygienic care.

In 2025, SC also began supporting AMA's work with midwifery clinics in rural areas. Ten midwifery clinics opened during the autumn in Wardak. These reach approximately 5,000 households in areas with limited access to functioning healthcare facilities. The clinics offer basic maternal and reproductive healthcare, including prenatal and postnatal care, family planning, referrals, and simple nutritional advice. In the startup phase, a total of 659 patient visits were MADE.

**A MAJORITY WERE CHECK-UPS** before delivery as well as contraceptive counselling. The number of visits was slightly lower than planned, likely primarily due to limited awareness of the activities in the initial stage. Concurrently, targeted training and mentoring for midwives were conducted to enhance quality and respectful care.

The model aims not only to deliver care but also to strengthen local ownership, coordination, and long-term sustainability. The activities are planned in collaboration with health authorities, other actors in the health sector, and the local community, where dialogue with village elders, shuras, and religious leaders contributes to trust and acceptance.





*Mentor Binish Raihan with midwife Shukria Ahmadi.*

## Mentors Save Lives and Increase Knowledge

### MIDWIFE MENTOR BINISH RAIHAN

provides life-saving instructions and knowledge on how to insert contraceptives.

– The mere presence of a midwife in the village is not enough; it is the expertise combined with a well-equipped health clinic that can play a significant role in reducing mortality, says Binish Raihan.

Binish Raihan is part of the mentoring programme run by the Afghan Midwives Association, AMA.

She has been a midwife for 23 years. In her work, she has seen that newly trained midwives have not received sufficient practical training. Therefore, she has been working as a mentor since 2021.

She now works in Kapisa, a mountainous area with poor or non-existent roads, making it difficult for residents to reach healthcare clinics.

Shukria Ahmadi is one of the midwives participating in the training. Despite nine years of experience,

she has learned a lot of new things during the year with a mentor.

– I have improved my skills in resuscitating children, controlling bleeding after birth, and managing preeclampsia, among other things, says Shukria Ahmadi.

She recounts an occasion when the placenta ruptured during a delivery.

– I became very worried and contacted the mentor. She guided me. It was very difficult, but I managed to save both the child and the mother.

# Education

Millions of children are excluded from school in Afghanistan. Among those who attend school, many do not achieve basic skills. SC's EdTech project aims to improve the quality of education, making it more inclusive and equitable.

**NINE MILLION CHILDREN** do not attend school in Afghanistan. 57 percent of them are girls. Among those who do attend school, many do not achieve basic skills in subjects such as reading and mathematics. According to a report from UNESCO and UNICEF, over 90 percent of ten-year-olds in Afghanistan cannot read a simple text, which is a sign that education is not translating into actual knowledge. A lack of trained teachers – especially female – combined with limited teaching resources negatively affects the quality of education.

The ban on girls attending school beyond grade six has excluded 2.2 million girls from higher grades. SC's EdTech project aims to create a more equitable, inclusive, and quality education for children in grades 1–6 through the use of digital technology in teaching. The project is implemented by War Child Canada in collaboration with the Afghan Development Association, ADA. During the year, 9,640 students (4,731 girls) were reached, close to the target of 10,000 students, including 189 children with disabilities (35 girls) in five provinces.

**THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE PROJECT** shows that it increased students' digital skills, classroom participation, and confidence in using digital tools. A digital platform with multilingual support (Dari, Pashto, and English), offline and online functions, as well as digital learning materials, videos, exercises, and assessments developed for the project had 2,243 registered accounts. 52 EdTech teachers (21 women)

were trained and supported by mentors to combine digital tools with a teaching method where students are active and engaged in their own learning.

A comparison between the initial and final analysis shows that the average daily attendance increased from 65 percent to 93 percent in the surveyed schools. At the same time, students' performance improved. Although the results cannot be attributed solely to the project, they show a clear positive trend. By promoting active learning, problem-solving, and creativity, the project has contributed to improved teaching quality and increased motivation among students.



PHOTO: ABDUL RAQEEB SAIL

*Najila and Parwin in the village of Sabzdara in Bamyán say that they have learned much more than before thanks to the help of technology.*



# Strengthened Civil Society

The space to organise and influence decision-makers is very limited. SC contributes to strengthening a civil society that advocates for human rights and poverty reduction.

**AFGHANISTAN IS CHARACTERISED BY A** restrictive and repressive context, where the space for people to organise, express their opinions, and influence decision-makers is very limited. In this situation, civil society plays a crucial role in ensuring that people's voices are heard and that fundamental rights can be defended and promoted.

An approved application within Sida's support to civil society enabled a new three-year programme to start during the last months of 2025, in collaboration with local partner organisations. The programme PACS, Promoting Afghan Civil Society, aims to contribute to a resilient and inclusive Afghan civil society that advocates for human rights and reduced poverty, with a particular focus on marginalised groups.

**IN A FRAGILE AND RESTRICTIVE** context, it is crucial to strengthen locally legitimate civil society actors to ensure basic services, rights protection, and long-term resilience. The programme includes several projects that enhance the conditions for SC to work more systematically with civil society strengthening efforts. SC will, among other things, support partners' work with local dialogue processes through collaboration with informal and traditional actors and by strengthening engagement in issues concerning women's situation, other social issues, and justice, including via radio. Partners also strengthen civil society actors' ability to represent and advocate for issues concerning the rights of marginalised groups. The programme also includes support for local organising and

information initiatives in the climate and environmental area, aiming to increase awareness, participation, and local leadership.

Furthermore, the programme contributes to improved access to basic services. Midwives receive continuing education and mentorship to enhance the quality of maternal care and women's professional leadership. People with disabilities are reached through rights information, needs assessments, and improved health interventions, as well as vocational training for strengthened livelihoods and access to physiotherapy and orthopedic aids.

The programme and the agreement with Sida constitute an important step in SC's long-term and strategic work to strengthen Afghan civil society.



PHOTO: KATARINA HÄRRÖD



PHOTO: EPTDO

*Two of the organisations in the programme: Kabul Orthopaedic Organisation (KOO) supports people with disabilities (image from KOO's orthopedic workshop in Kabul) and EPTDO, Environmental Protection, Trainings and Development Organisation works with environmental and climate issues, including through education and support to local communities (pictured).*

# Risk, Control and Corruption

**DURING 2025 SC** revised all governance documents to adapt them to the new organisation and new working methods. The review of internal governance and control (IGC) conducted by Sida in the autumn of 2025 as part of the preparation for the PACS programme provided an opportunity to confirm the work but also to implement further improvements.

Corruption and other irregularities occur in all sectors in Afghanistan, although corruption has decreased significantly in recent years. When significant resources, such as aid, are introduced into a context where risks are already high, this can create incentives for embezzlement, nepotism, or other irregularities. Taking responsibility for counteracting and preventing such risks is central to SC.

In connection with SC's organisational and strategic transition and new working methods, the anti-corruption policy was revised to align with the new direction. Special emphasis has been placed on preventive measures. SC emphasises transparency, clear accountability, and zero tolerance for corruption in cooperation with partner organisations. Rules, policy documents, and consequences for violations are clarified in cooperation agreements, and dialogue about risks and shared responsibility is a central part of the partnership.

Before each new partnership, SC conducts a review of the partner organisation's internal systems, governance, values, legitimacy, and past results. This is followed by a risk assessment and a follow-up plan. To prevent and detect irregularities, SC works with clear regulations, division of responsibilities, and internal control systems in finance, procurement, and personnel management. Ongoing

follow-up of partner organisations through narrative and financial reports, annual audits, field visits, and external reviews are central tools. In 2025, third-party monitoring of several project activities implemented by partners was conducted.

During the year, two corruption-related cases were reported, both of which were investigated:

**IN MAY, NAC REPORTED** suspicions of attempted theft and fraud at a provincial rehabilitation centre. The final investigation report confirmed deficiencies in supervision and control but found no evidence of corrupt actions. Measures included the termination of two employees, disciplinary actions against additional staff, and strengthening of internal control routines.

In November 2024, NAC reported a conflict of interest involving an employee working in procurement with undisclosed family ties to a company awarded a contract. The employee was immediately suspended pending investigation, and the company was deregistered from the supplier list. In September 2025, it was announced that the case was closed and the employee reinstated after suspension.

For comparison, the number of reports in 2024 was 26, of which ten led to full investigation. The relatively few cases reported in 2025 can have several explanations. SC actively works to strengthen the reporting culture and follow-up, including through clear and recurring communication about the organisation's zero tolerance and reporting routines, to counteract any underreporting. The work also includes analysis of partners' whistleblower systems, case management, and the quality of follow-up.



# The Board 2025-2026

## **Margareta Wahlström, Chair**

Elected 2024. Education in political science, economic history, and more from Stockholm University. Extensive career in development and international relations. Among other roles, worked for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva on disaster response. Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs at the UN and has worked within several UN agencies. Lives in Stockholm.

## **Anders Rosén, Vice Chair**

Elected 2019. Vice Chair since 2021. Information Coordinator for SC in Kabul 2012–2014. Journalist who has worked at Sveriges Television and served as Communications Director at state and municipal agencies. Former board member of the Amnesty Fund. Member of the municipal council for the Centre Party in his hometown Rättvik.

## **Sofia Amloh**

Elected 2024. Member of Parliament for the Social Democrats since 2021, previously an industrial worker, municipal politician, and Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee in Nyköping. Lives in Nyköping.

## **Henrik Blomgren**

Elected 2024. Background as, among other roles, CEO in the graphic industry, programme director at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, and consultant. Currently a lecturer at the Department of Industrial Economics at KTH, where he works on the consequences of globalisation and digitalisation. Lives in Sollentuna.

## **Freshta Dost**

Elected 2024. Journalist with a master's degree in investi-

gative journalism and human rights. Interned at Integrity Watch Afghanistan in Kabul and has since worked at Sveriges Radio, among others. Lives in Lerum.

## **Johan Schaar**

Elected 2023. Educated agronomist with a long career in humanitarian aid and development aid and in the climate field. Has worked in Asia and the Middle East, and for the Red Cross Movement, Sida, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the World Resources Institute. Senior researcher at SIPRI. Lives in Malmö.

## **Philip Arian Latif, Alternate**

Elected 2022. Former coordinator in the Young SC network from 2014–2016, active member since 2013. Economist and political scientist, currently working as a manager in primary care. Philip has a long-standing and varied engagement with Afghanistan issues in Sweden, with a passionate interest in the country's history. Lives in Bromma.

## **Annika Malmberg, Alternate**

Elected 2025. Unit Manager for Programme Partnerships at WaterAid, previously International Director at RFSU. Annika has a deep understanding of working in challenging contexts with sensitive issues and risk assessments. Annika has also worked in policy work, including at the children's rights organisation Plan International, where she was head of the policy unit. She also has experience from serving on both Swedish and international boards, including as Chair of Concord, which brings together around 80 civil society organisations. Lives in Sollentuna.



# Annual Report

The board and the secretary general of the Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan hereby submit the annual report for the financial year 2025.

*Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.*

## Management Report

### General Information about the Operations

The Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan (org.no 802010 - 4850) is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and is a membership-based, non-governmental nonprofit association founded on the principles of solidarity and people-to-people support. According to the bylaws §1.2, SC's purpose is to:

- support Afghanistan's national independence
- conduct development cooperation in Afghanistan to promote democratic, economic, and social development in the country
- spread knowledge about conditions in Afghanistan and about SC's activities, and to form public opinion to thereby promote solidarity with its people.

In 2025, SC consisted of 10 local associations in Sweden, two of which lacked a board. SC collaborates with others within civil society locally, nationally, and internationally. During 2025, the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) was SC's largest partner.

SC's mission is to contribute to building empowerment and resilience among individuals, local communities, and local organisations, primarily in rural Afghanistan, and to mobilise support and engagement for the Afghan people's rights and welfare. In the medium term, SC's goals are formulated in the Strategic Plan 2025–27. SC's priority target groups are women, children, and people with disabilities.

In 2025, SC worked for the target groups in Afghanistan

through collaboration with NAC, DACAAR, and War Child Canada, as well as the Afghan Midwives Association, AMA. The activities consisted of programmes for people with disabilities, rural development programmes, technology in education (EdTech), and maternal care.

SC's annual meeting in May 2025 decided on minor revisions of the bylaws. These included changes to the guidelines for the nomination committee and the association auditor. Work on a more comprehensive bylaw revision began in the latter part of 2025 due to significant changes within SC.

In Sweden, the secretariat supported local associations and members, was responsible for communication, the member magazine Afghanistan-nytt, and conducted fundraising among the public and towards companies. Fundraising methods include one-time donations, direct debit, and participation in events like Världens Barn. SC is a member of Giva Sverige and has a 90-account. The operations are audited annually by the Swedish Fundraising Control. SC follows Giva's quality code and prepared an impact report for 2024, which was integrated into the management report.

In Sweden, until November 1, there were units for finance and administration, partnerships, communication, and the secretary general's staff. A new organisation took effect on January 1, 2025. Due to the economic situation, another reorganisation and reduction in the number of positions at the secretariat were carried out in the fall, from 18 to 13 permanent positions (12.5 full-time equivalents). After the reorganisation, the secretary general is the only position with a managerial function. The previous unit manager positions have been abolished.

Andreas Stefansson resigned as secretary general on March 31. Kajsa Johansson assumed the role of secretary general on April 1, thereby ending her position as deputy secretary general, a position that was temporary and primarily focused on contributing to SC's reorientation.



SC after the reorganisation that took effect on November 1, 2025:



## Result – Outcome in Relation to Purpose and Goals

SC places great emphasis on learning and improvement work. Results and effects in the medium term are reported against strategic goals, set in a multi-year Strategic Plan (SP) with annual work plans and associated budgets established by the board. The budget is regularly monitored by the secretariat and the board. The SP specifies baseline values, as well as definitions and measures of change. 2025 was the first year of the strategic plan period 2025–27.

Goal fulfillment in terms of improvements for SC's target groups must be seen in light of the ongoing humanitarian crisis. SC's efforts have contributed to improvements for those reached, even though contextual factors may have worsened their situation. Below is a selection of results.

### Strategic Area 1: International Cooperation with Afghanistan

SC plays a central role in increasing knowledge about Afghanistan, contributing a nuanced situation analysis, and highlighting that it is still possible to make a tangible difference for the population. This has been achieved through:

- Publication of the magazine Afghanistan-nytt, opinion articles and interviews in media, presence in social media.
- Seminars, lectures, and other activities. SC's secretariat

organised six events, including the international conference held every other year. Local associations organised 71 activities.

- Publication of a series of policy briefs (four briefs published in 2025).

The number of members in Sweden decreased by six percent to 2,690.

Funds raised from private donors amounted to 8.3 million SEK, an increase of 5 percent compared to 2024.

### Strategic Area 2: Development Paths in Afghanistan

The goal in this area is to contribute in the long term to improved national policy frameworks in Afghanistan in social issues, economy, and governance by increasing the accountability and responsiveness of Afghan authorities and by strengthening civil society's ability to participate in dialogue and influence.

In 2025, activities in the area were limited due to a lack of resources. The focus was therefore mainly on preparatory work in line with the work plan, including mapping relevant research institutions and civil society actors and identifying possible collaborations for future policy work as well as funding opportunities.

However, a new three-year application granted within Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with civil society enabled the new programme, Promoting Afghan Civil Society, PACS, to be launched at the end of the year. It is implemented in collaboration with 6–7 partner organisations and will contribute to results in this strategic area as well as in other areas.

### **Strategic Area 3: Right to Food, Livelihood, and Climate Justice**

People in rural Afghanistan live in an extremely vulnerable situation. Livelihood opportunities are limited, and many live without a stable income. Communities are vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. The local infrastructure for agriculture and water management is lacking.

People with disabilities continue to face complex and overlapping barriers, such as discrimination, stigmatisation, and limited access to work and income sources.

To strengthen the resilience and livelihood opportunities of target groups, SC works with various types of interventions.

- The EU-funded programme for livelihood opportunities and food security continued in 2025 in partnership with DACAAR, which took over implementation in 2024.
- After restarting and mobilising at the beginning of the year, activities were scaled up in Wardak, Kunduz, and Jawzjan.
- 851 savings and loan groups were established with 17,020 members (50 percent women). 710 people (43 percent women) received internal loans for income-generating activities.
- 1,206 women and men completed vocational training, and 553 farmers received production support. 124 producer groups were formed to strengthen market connections.
- 55 local communities received improved agricultural infrastructure, including 4.8 km of irrigation canals and climate-adapted protective structures benefitting 13,506 people.
- 133 disaster committees were formed, and 3,150 people were trained in disaster risk reduction. 4,162 people participated in rights and inclusion initiatives (65 percent women).
- Implementation was affected by administrative delays and border closures, causing some shifting schedules.

### **Livelihood Opportunities for People with Disabilities**

- Vocational training was conducted in 15 provinces.
- 485 people completed vocational training (56 percent women), exceeding the target.
- Training included market-adapted professions such as sewing, computer skills, mobile repair, and carpentry.
- Participants' average monthly income increased by 211 percent, to 2,328 AFN (target: 62 percent increase).

### **Strategic Area 4: Right to Basic Quality Community Services**

Access to education, healthcare, water, and sanitation remains a challenge. Maternal mortality in Afghanistan was already one of the highest in the world, and the situation has worsened.

Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of disability in the world. People with disabilities face discrimination through, among other things, limited access to quality rehabilitation and aids and limited access to education due to a lack of, or insufficient, inclusive learning environments.

Millions of people lack access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, especially in rural and hard-to-reach regions, as a result of prolonged conflict, climate impact, economic decline, and insufficient investments in basic community services.

### **Education, Rehabilitation, and Health**

- Over 51,000 people received physiotherapy, orthopedic services, and psychosocial support, of which nearly 25,000 were women (a total of 21 percent over the target).
- 92.5 percent of recipients stated they were satisfied with the interventions.
- 88 percent of patients reported improved health status after treatment (41 percent significant improvement).
- 998 health and rehabilitation staff were trained (479 women), exceeding the target.

#### *Inclusive Education*

- 2,624 children and adults with disabilities gained access to special and preparatory education (19 percent over the target; 42 percent girls/women).
- 154 community-based and provincial centres for special and preparatory education were supported during the year.



- 385 educators were trained in special education (209 women).
- Knowledge tests show improvements in reading and math skills.

#### *Education with Digital Technology (EdTech)*

- 9,640 students were reached (4,731 girls), including 189 children with disabilities.
- 52 teachers were trained in digital and interactive pedagogy.
- The project strengthened students' digital skills, participation, and motivation.

#### **Construction**

- After the suspension of SC's operational activities, five previously started constructions were completed in 2025 in partnership with DACAAR (two schools and three clinics).
- 566 children gained access to an improved educational environment, and approximately 170,000 people gained increased access to healthcare services.
- The facilities have been handed over to local actors for continued operation. Implementation took place under logistically and administratively challenging conditions.

#### **Maternity Care and Midwifery Initiatives**

- 50 midwives in four provinces participated in mentorship programmes run by AMA; 92 percent improved their clinical skills.
- 10 midwifery clinics were opened in Wardak, reaching about 5,000 households.
- 659 patient visits were conducted during the start-up phase.
- The initiatives contribute to enhanced access to quality and respectful care before, during, and after childbirth, as well as nutrition support and contraceptive counselling.

#### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

- Funding for seven of eight transferred WASH projects was secured during the year.
- A water project in Badakhshan was resumed at the end of 2025 and will be completed in 2026. The gravity-based system is estimated to provide over 60,000 people with access to safer drinking water and includes capacity building for sustainable operation.

## **Significant Events During the Fiscal Year**

- When the government decided to terminate the Afghanistan strategy, it meant that the dialogue between SC and Sida regarding funding was interrupted, and the possibility of long-term funding from a strategy focused on Afghanistan disappeared for the foreseeable future.
- SC used a significant portion of its reserves to ensure continuity in core activities, particularly the programme for people with disabilities.
- SC also received core support from the Postcode Lottery, 17.5 million (17 million).
- SC entered into an agreement with Sida within the strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with civil society, for a three-year programme to strengthen civil society organisations in Afghanistan. Negotiations with local partner organisations included in the Promoting Afghan Civil Society (PACS) programme were ongoing during the fall in preparation for the programme's start in 2026.
- Activities in Afghanistan were carried out with good results in collaboration with NAC, DACAAR, and War Child Canada. Resources for completing a water supply project in Badakhshan were mobilised, among other things, through Water for All.
- SC employees began traveling to Afghanistan again.
- The process of registering the Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan for Afghanistan made significant progress, with the goal of establishing an office in Kabul.
- Policy work was strengthened, including the launch of a series of policy briefs, and SC held its international conference, which takes place every other year.
- In 2025, SC received funding from the Postcode Lottery, EU, Radio Aid, private donors, Sida, and Water for All.



<b>Financial Five-Year Overview</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Operating Revenue	43.5	224.8	445.5	515.8	333.2
Programme Expenses	88.3	149.6	397.1	483.5	262.1
Fundraising Costs	2.07	2.85	3.6	3.2	2.9
Administrative Costs *	18.1	78.7	41.3	49.8	39.5
Operational Results **	-66.5	6.3	-15.5	-20.8	28.7
Result after financial investments	-65.8	3.2	-15.1	-20.8	28.7
Balance Sheet	94.9	187.3	195.7	214.5	222.7
Fundraising and administrative costs as % of total operating income ***	46.30%	36.30%	10.50%	10.30%	12.70%

\* SC's offices in Afghanistan were closed on 2024-12-31, and only the office in Stockholm was retained. Therefore, the administrative costs were low.

\*\* SC used a significant portion of its reserves to ensure continuity in core activities, particularly the programme for people with disabilities. Therefore, the year ends with a deficit/loss.

\*\*\* Since SC ended its operations in Afghanistan, all donor-funded projects were closed, and SC lost a majority of its funding from institutional donors. Income from institutional donors in 2025 decreased from 224.8 million SEK in 2024 to 43.5 million SEK in 2025. The high percentage is due to low income in 2025.



## Results and Position

As of December 31, 2025, there were 2,690 (2,858) members, which is thus stated as the membership number for 2025. The number represents a decrease of about 6 percent, which is a smaller membership loss than the previous year.

During the 2025 annual meeting, three local associations hosted: Skövde Skaraborg, Gothenburg, and Vänersborg's local association. The annual meeting was held in Västra Götaland, in Uddevalla at Bohusgården on May 25–26. 87 members participated, of which 59 had voting rights. The only motion received came from the Stockholm local association and concerned whether a nomination committee should be appointed earlier than at the current annual meeting, thus giving the committee more time to present candidates for the election committee. The annual meeting also approved the board's proposal to have two options for the membership fee, 120 SEK or 280 SEK.

During the annual meeting, two amendments to the bylaws were approved, reducing the board's size to six members and two alternates, and removing the requirement to belong to a local association. A review of SC's bylaws, in consultation with the local associations, was also conducted in 2025 and is set to be voted on at the annual meeting in 2026.

Anders Rosén was re-elected as vice chairman for two years. Since the annual meeting decided to reduce the number of seats on the board, only Johan Schaar was elected as an ordinary member for a term of two years. Philip Latif and Annika Malmberg were elected as alternates for a term of one year. The 2025 Solidarity Award was awarded to Kristina Johnsson and Maria Aschenbrenner.

The annual meeting established revised guidelines for association auditors and the nomination committee, as part of adapting the organisation to its current size. The annual meeting confirmed the nomination committee's procurement of PwC with chief authorised auditor Gunnar Thullberg.

**Fundraising:** The result of the fundraising for the 90-accounts 90 07 80-8 and 90 01 20-7 was 8.3 (7.9) million SEK. Of the result, 5.0 (5.7) million SEK were contributions from monthly donors and 3.3 (2.2) million SEK other donations.

The cost of fundraising was 2.0 (2.9) million SEK, or 24.0 percent (37.1 percent) of the income. SC is a beneficiary of the Postcode Lottery and received 17.5 (17) million SEK during the year.

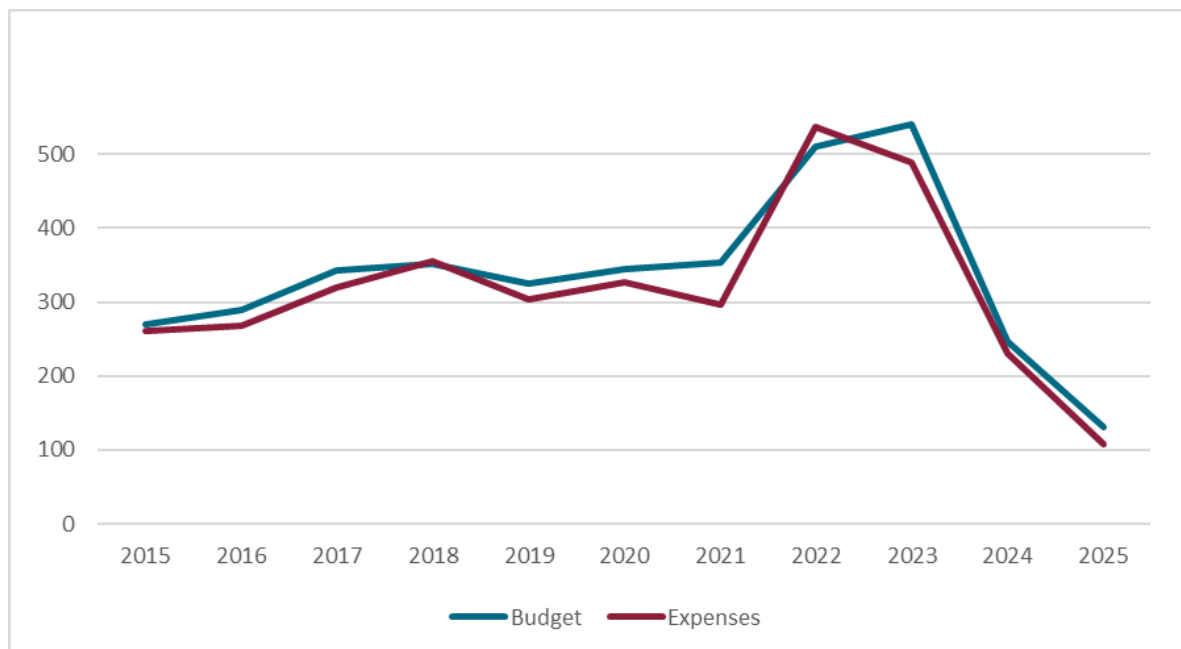
**Management and Decisions:** During the year, a review of all of SC's governing documents was conducted as an adaptation to the new organisation and also in response to the review of internal governance and control (ISK) that Sida conducted of the organisation in connection with the application to the CSO strategy. A selection of current governing documents is available at [www.solidaritycommittee.org](http://www.solidaritycommittee.org).

SC had a continued stable financial base during the year. The balance sheet total was 94.9 (187.3) million SEK for 2025 and includes 81.7 (148.3) million SEK in equity and earmarked donations that entirely belong to the organisation. Equity including earmarked funds decreased by 66.6 (increased by 12.3) million SEK from 2024 to 2025 as the equity was used to finance operations.

SC does not use any so-called financial instruments. SC's investment policy states that the organisation should prioritise financial long-term sustainability, efficiency, and risk minimisation to not jeopardise the ability to meet the organisation's obligations.



## Budget and Expenditures in mSEK



## Sustainability Disclosures

SC does not meet the criteria for sustainability reporting according to the Annual Accounts Act, but the strategic plan for 2025-27 consistently contributes to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The environmental policy was updated and approved on February 15, 2025.

The office in Sweden was reorganised and a number of employees were laid off. All were offered transition support through Omstella. SC utilised the Work Environment Portal to measure employees' experience of the work environment and engagement. A survey was sent out during the year. Employee sick leave in 2025 was 2.45 percent (3.87 percent).

**Corruption and Anti-Corruption:** Zero tolerance for corruption and all forms of improper exercise of power remains a central part of SC's identity and rights-based work.

In connection with SC's organisational and strategic transformation, the anti-corruption policy was revised with a special emphasis on preventive measures. Transparency, clear accountability, and risk management characterise the

collaboration with partner organisations. Before new partnerships, system reviews and risk assessments are conducted, followed by a follow-up plan. Ongoing control is carried out through reporting, audits, and field visits. In 2025, third-party monitoring of several projects was conducted.

**Discovered Cases of Embezzlement and Corruption:** In 2025, two corruption-related cases were reported by NAC, both of which were investigated. One case involved suspected theft and fraud where deficiencies in control were found but no evidence of corruption. Measures were taken against those responsible and internal controls were strengthened. The other concerned a conflict of interest in procurement; the employee was suspended during the investigation and reinstated after the case was closed.

In comparison, 26 reports were received in 2024, of which 10 led to full investigation. SC actively works to strengthen the reporting culture and follow-up with partners, including clear and recurring communication about the organisation's zero tolerance and reporting routines, to counteract potential underreporting.

## Risks and Expected Future Development

- Although SC's financial situation has improved significantly during the year, the greatest risk remains the lack of long-term financing. The funding base needs to be broadened and work is underway to find new donors, internationally and in Sweden. The work is hampered by sharply declining aid levels to Afghanistan in general and by the Swedish government's decision to end the bilateral strategy.
- The challenges with financing have affected the achievement of goals for the entire strategy. It is particularly critical for goal 2 where we need to significantly strengthen the international work with policy, research, and advocacy actors.
- The presence in Afghanistan is consolidated with offices and staff on site during 2026.
- The Sida-funded programme to strengthen local civil society organisations, professional associations, and local structures begins implementation in several provinces during 2026.
- Parts of the programme for people with disabilities, such as preparatory and inclusive education for children with disabilities, are transferred from NAC to local partners with support and continued funding from SC.
- Afghanistan is a very challenging environment with significant operational, financial, and security risks. Control systems, risk analysis, and ongoing follow-up are therefore of great importance.
- Membership numbers have a declining trend. The membership movement therefore needs to be strengthened.
- Internal risk is high set goals and a very limited team to implement them. Globally, attention to Afghanistan can still be expected to be limited in the coming years, as other crises dominate international politics.

## Management

**Leadership:** At the turn of the month March-April, Kajsa Johansson succeeded Andreas Stefansson as Secretary General. Thus, the position she previously held as Deputy Secretary General ended. Kajsa Johansson is based in Hjo and Stockholm. Shah Mahmood was head of the finance and administration unit until October 31. After the reorganisation, his title is Head of Finance and Controller. The new organisation was effective from November 1.

**Employees:** On January 1, a new organisation came into effect where the number of employees decreased from 22 to 18. After another reorganisation and reduction, the number

of employees decreased to 13 (12.5 full-time equivalents) by the end of the year.

**Board:** The board appointed a working committee within itself during the year but chose to abolish the audit committee. The position of chairman or board member is not remunerated. During 2025, 7 regular meetings, one constitutive, and 3 extraordinary information meetings were held. Attendance at constitutive and regular meetings during 2025:

### Outgoing at the 2025 annual meeting:

Carl Nordblom, 1 of 5 meetings  
Karl Tarring, 3 of 5 meetings  
Morsal Aimal, 5 of 5 meetings  
Anders Fänge, 5 of 5 meetings

### Incumbent at the 2025 annual meeting:

Margareta Wahlström, 11 of 11 meetings  
Anders Rosén, 10 of 11 meetings  
Philip Latif, 11 of 11 meetings  
Johan Schaar, 11 of 11 meetings  
Henrik Blomgren, 10 of 11 meetings  
Sofia Amlöh, 4 of 11 meetings

### Joined in 2025:

Annika Malmborg, 6 of 6 meetings

Anna Åkerberg and Jenny Grenander were elected as association auditors by the annual meeting, with Hans Hansson and Annika Svensson as deputies. The annual meeting elected Anna-Karin Johansson (convenor), Shirin Persson, Nader Barekzai, Lena Asplund, and Enayatullah Adel to the nomination committee. The annual meeting confirmed the procurement of PwC with Gunnar Thullberg as authorised auditor.



## Income statement

(tsek)

	Note	2025	2024
<b>Operating income</b>			
Membership fees	12	714	818
Donations	3,12	25 832	24 899
Contributions	3,12	16 991	197 359
Other operating income	12	0	1 715
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>43 537</b>	<b>224 791</b>
<b>Operating costs</b>			
Costs for the objective	4,5,12	-88 266	-149 562
Fundraising costs	4,5,12	-2 077	-2 850
SC Organisation Cost	4,5,12	-18 083	-78 735
Other cost	13	-1 574	0
<b>Total operating costs</b>		<b>-110 001</b>	<b>-231 147</b>
<b>Result from operations</b>		<b>-66 465</b>	<b>-6 356</b>
<b>Result from financial investments</b>			
Other interest income and similar profit/loss items		644	3 135
<b>Total result from financial investments</b>		<b>644</b>	<b>3 135</b>
<b>Result after financial result</b>		<b>-65 820</b>	<b>-3 221</b>
<b>PROFIT/LOSS OF THE YEAR</b>	12	<b>-65 820</b>	<b>-3 221</b>

## Balance sheet

(tsek)

	Note	2025-12-31	2024-12-31
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Intangible fixed assets</b>			
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>			
Equipment	6	0	0
		0	0
<b>Financial fixed assets</b>			
Long term securities	7	3 030	2 820
		3 030	2 820
<b>Fixed assets, total</b>		<b>3 030</b>	<b>2 820</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Accounts receivables – trade		0	0
Other receivables		1 429	15 038
Receivable on granted but not received grants	9	5 625	76
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	8	617	521
		7 671	15 635
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>	11	84 210	168 864
<b>Current assets, total</b>		<b>91 882</b>	<b>184 500</b>
<b>ASSETS, TOTAL</b>		<b>94 911</b>	<b>187 321</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Donation capital		391	391
Earmarked funds		12 453	71 990
Profit/Loss brought forward		134 746	79 182
<b>Result of the year</b>		<b>-65 820</b>	<b>-3 221</b>
		81 770	148 343
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable – trade		409	899
Liability on received but not utilised grants	9	1 559	26 396
Other liabilities		8 007	6 048
Accrued expenses and deferred income	10	3 167	5 631
		13 141	38 974
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES, TOTAL</b>		<b>94 911</b>	<b>187 317</b>

## Changes in Own Capital

	Donations- Capital	Operation reserve	Earmarked funds own fundraising	Earmarked funds Post Code Lottery	Retained Earning	Result of the year	Total Own Capital
Incoming balances 2025-01-01	391	71 835	71 747	243	4 127		148 343
Exchange rate difference and the changes as a result of closing projects in Afghanistan		(509)	-	(244)	-		(753)
<b>SUM</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>71 326</b>	<b>71 747</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>4 127</b>	<b>(65 820)</b>	<b>147 590</b>
Result of the year							
Earmarked by the donors			(59 293)		59 293		-
Used earmarked funds from previous years		(6 727)	-	-	6 727		-
<b>Closing balance 2025-12-31</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>64 599</b>	<b>12 455</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>70 147</b>	<b>(65 820)</b>	<b>81 770</b>

**Cash flow analysis  
(tSEK)**

	<b>2025-01-01- 2025-12-31</b>	<b>2024-01-01- 2024-12-31</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Operating profit/Loss	-66 465	-6 356
Adjustments of positions not included in the cash flow etc. (writing off long term liabilities (revolving loan and staff insurance))	0	-18 040
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>	<b>-66 465</b>	<b>-24 396</b>
<b>Changes in working capital</b>		
Changes in current short term receivables	7 964	-5 517
Changes in short term current liabilities	-25 832	2 725
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>-84 334</b>	<b>-27 188</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Investment of other financial assets	435	3 602
Sales of other financial assets	0	-2 018
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>1 584</b>
<b>Cashflow for the year</b>		
	<b>-83 899</b>	<b>-25 604</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	168 864	175 816
Exchange rate differences and other changes of value in cash and cash equivalents	-753	18 652
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at year-end</b>	<b>84 210</b>	<b>168 864</b>

## **General**

### **Note 1 Accounting and Valuation Principles**

The accounting and valuation principles of the Solidarity Committee for Afghanistan are in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFNAR 2012:1, and Giva Sweden's governing guidelines for annual reporting.

The accounting principles are unchanged compared to the previous financial year.

#### **Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. SC classifies its revenue into the categories membership fees, donations, grants, net sales, and other income.

Membership fees refer to fees paid by individuals for membership in the association. Membership fees are recognized upon receipt from the member and recognized as income over the period to which they relate.

An asset transferred to SC without any requirement for consideration is classified as a donation. Designation of purpose according to SC's ordinary earmarking categories is not considered a requirement for consideration. Donations in the form of cash and material gifts of significant value are recognized as income. Donations in the form of services or material gifts of insignificant value are not recognized as income. Donations are recognized as income when received.

An asset transferred with a requirement for consideration is classified as a grant. Grants are recognized as income when the conditions attached to the grant have been fulfilled. Until such conditions are fulfilled, the grant is recognized as a liability. Grants received to finance specific costs are recognized in the same financial year as the costs they are intended to cover.

Funds raised consist partly of donations collected directly by the association and partly of funds received through the Radio Aid campaign "Världens Barn" and the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

Revenue from sales is recognized at the time of sale and classified as net sales.

Income that does not fall within any of the categories above is classified as other income. Other income may include exchange rate differences, reversals/write-downs of doubtful balances, and similar items.

SC defines a volunteer as a person who, based on their own free will and initiative, engages in unpaid voluntary work without remuneration. SC does not include elected representatives within the definition of volunteers.

## **Expenses**

Operating expenses are classified into the following functions: programme expenses, fundraising expenses, and administrative expenses.

Programme expenses include costs directly related to fulfilling the organization's purpose according to its statutes. All costs incurred in Afghanistan are classified as programme expenses, with the exception of a minor portion related to basic administration. SC's information and advocacy work in Sweden is also classified as programme expenses, as it forms part of the organization's statutory purpose.

Fundraising expenses are costs necessary to generate fundraising income. These include, among other things, advertising, promotional activities, salary costs, thank-you letters, distribution of donation letters, and costs related to recruiting monthly donors and similar activities.

Administrative expenses are costs required to administer the organization. Administration constitutes a quality assurance function for both the organization's purpose and its donors. Administrative expenses include costs related to SC's office in Stockholm, such as rent and other operating expenses for premises and communications, as well as salary costs for administrative staff. Costs relating to the Board of Directors and a minor portion of administrative staff costs in Afghanistan are also included.

All lease agreements are accounted for as operating leases, meaning that lease payments are recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Ongoing employee compensation in the form of salaries, social security contributions, and similar costs is recognized as expenses as employees render services. Pension obligations are classified as defined contribution plans and recognized as expenses in the year in which the pension rights are earned.

## **Balance Sheet**

Assets, liabilities, and provisions are measured at acquisition cost unless otherwise stated below.

Financial assets are measured at the lower of carrying amount and market value. All assets held for risk diversification purposes are considered part of a securities portfolio and are therefore assessed collectively when applying the lower of cost or market principle and impairment testing.

Receivables are recognized at the amounts expected to be collected. Trade receivables are valued individually.

Receivables and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate prevailing on the balance sheet date.

Furniture, machinery, materials, and equipment purchased for programme activities are expensed immediately upon acquisition if donor funding has been budgeted for such purchases. If there is no donor budget covering the write-off of materials and equipment for programme activities during the year, such items are treated as assets and included in the balance sheet. For control purposes, inventory registers are maintained at each location.

Restricted funds are recognized as a separate item within equity and correspond to donations not yet utilized and other restricted funds.

The operating reserve mainly consists of three components:

- a) capital generated through surpluses primarily arising from grant-funded activities. For example, EU-funded projects must be reported using exchange rates determined by the EU, which may differ from actual exchange rates, resulting in positive or negative outcomes;
- b) SC has implemented projects where success is measured against milestones. This means that donors have disbursed funds based on achieved results, and where actual project costs have been lower than budgeted, SC has been able to retain a surplus without repayment obligations;
- c) in accordance with a decision by SC's Board of Directors and based on Giva Sweden's recommendation that organizations should maintain an operating reserve to manage financial risks, 30% of unrestricted donations received from individual donors are retained as an operating reserve.

A provision is recognized where SC has a legal or constructive obligation that is expected to result in a future outflow of resources. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation.

Costs relating to SC partners are recognized based on actual utilization of the budget during the year. Under- or overutilization by partners is translated into receivables or liabilities at the exchange rate prevailing on the balance sheet date.

SC recognizes a contingent liability where a possible obligation exists as a result of past events, the existence of which will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events outside SC's control, or where SC has a present obligation arising from past events that is not recognized as a liability or provision because it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, or because the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

### **Cash Flow Statement**

The cash flow statement is prepared using the indirect method and is based on operating surplus/deficit from ongoing operations. Operating results are adjusted for non-cash items and changes during the period in trade receivables, trade payables, and

other operating receivables and liabilities. Cash flow effects from investing and financing activities are also adjusted for. Cash and cash equivalents include cash balances, bank balances, and short-term investments with maturities of less than three months.

**Note 2 Significant Events After the End of the Financial Year**

In January 2026, SC was informed that the organization had been awarded SEK 17 million by the Swedish Postcode Lottery for 2026.

### Note 3 Fund Raised

	2025	2024
<b>Donations accounted for in the Income statement</b>		
<u>Fundraising:</u>		
Public	7 738	7 728
Companies	548	171
Post Code Lottery	17 545	17 000
<b>Total Donations accounted for in the income statement</b>	<b>25 832</b>	<b>24 899</b>
<b>Contributions accounted for as income</b>		
<u>Fundraising:</u>		
Radio Aid	3 296	1 659
<b>Total Contribution from Public</b>	<b>3 296</b>	<b>1 659</b>
<b>Grants from public agencies, authorities and institutions</b>		
Sida	595	153 296
United Nations	-	26 087
European Commission	13 100	4 275
WFP	-	1 519
Netherlands	-	2 477
FCDO	-	8 069
Others	-	(23)
<b>Total Grants from public agencies, authorities and institutions</b>	<b>13 695</b>	<b>195 700</b>
<b>Total contributions accounted for as income</b>	<b>16 991</b>	<b>197 359</b>
<b>Total Fundraising consist of the following:</b>		
Total Donations accounted for in the income statement	25 832	24 899
Total Contribution from Public	3 296	1 659
<b>TOTAL FUND RAISED</b>	<b>29 128</b>	<b>26 558</b>

#### Note 4 - Number of employees, staff costs and fees to the board

Number of employees	2025		2024	
	No of employees	Of whom men	No of employees	Of whom men
Sweden	18	4	22	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>

The number of employees in Sweden is based on the average number of employees.

#### Board members and senior management, per gender

	2025		2024	
	No of employees	Of whom men	No of employees	Of whom men
Board members	9	5	9	5
Secretary General	1	0	1	1
Senior Management except SG	4	3	4	3

#### Salaries and other remunerations

	2025	2024
Secretary General	1 350	952
Other employees	9 617	163 940
Sweden	9 617	12 747
Afghanistan, expatriate staff	0	8 047
Afghanistan, locally employed	0	110 333
Afghanistan, project staff	0	32 704
Pakistan, locally employed	0	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 968</b>	<b>164 892</b>

#### Social security contribution

	2025	2024
<b>Total social security cost</b>	<b>4 769</b>	<b>5 965</b>
of which pension cost	1 027	1 382

The board did not received any remunerations in 2025, nor in 2024.

Out of the total pension costs 158 (212) TSEK relates to the Secretary General.

#### Voluntary work

The estimation is that 9 (7) individuals contributed a total of 189 (110) hours.

#### Agreement for severance pay

If SG is relieved of his duties based on an initiative of the employer, SG is entitled to salary during one year. If SG during this period obtains another source of income that amount should be deducted from the salary of SC.

#### Loan to senior management and related party transactions

The organisation has not issued any loan to senior management, nor has any related party transaction taken place.

INTERNAL

### Note 5 Leasing fees

SCs leasing fees is primarily office rent and some office equipment.

The office contract in Sweden is ending in 2026-09-30, and thereafter prolonged automatically if no party leaves due notice. In last quarter of 2025, SC decided to terminate the contract. Hence the contract will be ended by 2026-09-30

	2025	2024
Leasing fee that are booked as cost	1 750	3 176
Future leasing fee are due:		
Within 1 year	1 392	1 734
In 2 to 5 years	187	1 500
	<b>1 578</b>	<b>3 234</b>

### Note 6 Fixed Assets

	2025	2024
Opening acquisition value	2 340	54 665
This year's purchases	0	147
Disposals	0	52 472
<b>Accumulated acquisition value</b>	<b>2 340</b>	<b>2 340</b>
Opening contributions	2 340	54 663
This year's contributions	0	147

INTERNAL

#### Note 7 Longterm investments held as assets

	2025	2024
Opening acquisition value	2 820	2 353
Purchase	210	467
<b>Accumulated acquisition value</b>	<b>3 030</b>	<b>2 820</b>
<b>Closing booked value</b>	<b>3 030</b>	<b>2 820</b>

	Booked value	Market value
Swedbank Robur Likviditetsfond (Räntefond Kort A)	2 720	2 977
Nordea Stratega	143	147
SEB H.V.R Water Purification	167	179
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 030</b>	<b>3 303</b>

#### Note 8 Prepaid expenses and accrued income

	2025	2024
Prepaid rent	386	379
Prepaid Insurance	52	7
Prepaid others expenses	179	135
	<b>617</b>	<b>521</b>

**Note 9 Donor balances**

Donor	Receivable		Liability		Project status
	2025	2024	2025	2024	
Radio Aid		67	-	-	
Sida		-	1 325	5 282	Sida agreement continues till end 2028
UN		-	-	3 354	
European Commission	5 625		-	7 712	EU Livelihood project agreement continues in 2026. Funds from EU is received in January 2026.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The state of Netherlands			-	7 880	
FCDO		9		-	
Water 4 All			200	-	Water 4 All project continue till end 2026.
Others		-	34	2 168	Un-used balance from other donors will be included in the budget 2026.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 625</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1 559</b>	<b>26 396</b>	

**Note 10 Accrued expenses and deferred income**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Vacation debt	2 260	2 691
Accrued employee fee	202	2 261
Prepaid membership fees	409	396
Other items	296	283
	<b>3 167</b>	<b>5 631</b>

**Note 11 Liquid Asset**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Cash	0	433
Bank Balances	84 210	168 431
	<b>84 210</b>	<b>168 864</b>

**Details of revenues and costs for 2025**  
Consolidated (sek)

**Note 12**

SOURCE OF REVENUE	FUNDS RECEIVED IN 2025	ACTIVITIES EXPENSES							TOTAL COSTS OF 2024	NET EFFECT DONOR LIABILITY/ RECEIVABLE	RESULT OF THE YEAR
		Advocacy and influencing policy Activities	Association Activities	Communication	Fundraising	Right to food, Livelihood and climate Justice	Right to equal Social Services	SC Organisation Cost			
<i>Operating income</i>											
Membership fees:	714		513						514		200
Membership fees from SC association members	714		513						514		200
<b>Raised funds:</b>	<b>25 832</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>2 077</b>	<b>1 700</b>	<b>67 899</b>	<b>17 860</b>	<b>90 922</b>		<b>(65 090)</b>
SC fundraising	8 287	53	-	-	1 966	1 700	53 170	10 690	67 579		(59 293)
Post Code Lottery	17 545	180	237	914	111	-	14 729	1 373	17 545		-
SC reserve	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 797	5 797		(5 797)
<b>Contributions:</b>	<b>3 296</b>								<b>3 296</b>		
Radio Aid	3 296								3 296		
<b>Grants:</b>	<b>8 487</b>								<b>13 098</b>		
Sida	1 920								375		(5 208)
EU	6 333								375		1 325
Water 4 All	200								-		(6 767)
Others	34								2		200
											34
<i>Others</i>	<b>(930)</b>										
Interest, exchange gains/losses	(930)										(930)
<b>Total Operating Income:</b>	<b>37 399</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>2 077</b>	<b>14 798</b>	<b>71 571</b>	<b>18 083</b>	<b>108 427</b>	<b>(5 208)</b>	<b>(65 820)</b>

**Note 13 Other costs**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Exchange rate loss	1 574	1 715
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 574</b>	<b>1 715</b>

Stockholm

28-03-2026

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Margareta Wahlström  
Ordförande

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Anders Rosén  
Vice Ordförande

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Johan Schaar

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Sofia Amløh

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Henrik Blomgren

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Freshta Dost

Our audit report has been issued on the date indicated by our electronic signatures.

Association auditors

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Jenny Grenader

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Anna Åkerberg

