



ACSA Cultural & Sport Association (ACSA)

ACSA – Afghanistan Programs & Impact Report (2009–2018)

Executive Summary

Between 2009 and 2018, ACSA leadership implemented pioneering initiatives across Afghanistan, focusing on women's empowerment, sport development, health, entrepreneurship, leadership training, and cultural transformation. These programs played a historic role in breaking social barriers, creating the first women-centered sports infrastructure, and advancing gender equality through sport, education, and economic opportunity.

During this period, over 15,000 women and girls directly and indirectly benefited from national-level initiatives implemented in partnership with UN Women, USAID, GIZ, Counterpart International, AWEC, and national institutions.

Organizational Background in Afghanistan

ACSA's foundation and leadership roots originate in Afghanistan, where operations began in 2009 through the establishment of the first fully dedicated women's sports complex in the country.

At a time when women's participation in sport and public life faced significant cultural and structural barriers, these initiatives created historic access, opportunity, and empowerment pathways for Afghan women and girls.

Strategic Objectives in Afghanistan (2009–2018)

- Women's empowerment through sport
- Health promotion and physical wellbeing
- Leadership development
- Economic empowerment
- Cultural change and gender equity
- Institutional capacity-building

Major Programs & National Initiatives

1. Establishment of the First Women's Sports Complex in Afghanistan

Year: 2009

Impact:

First dedicated national facility for women's sport

Served as a national model for female participation

Created safe access to sport, fitness, and leadership

Trained hundreds of female athletes and coaches

2. Women, Sport & Health Project

Year: 2011–2012

Partner: USAID

Impact:

3,000+ women and girls engaged

Health awareness campaigns

Fitness and wellness training

Mental health education through sport

3. Sport, Women & Health Program – Kabul

Year: 2011

Partner: USAID

Impact:

Community health workshops

Physical activity programs

Women-focused wellness education

4. Empowering Vulnerable Afghan Women through Ball Production

Year: 2014–2015

Partner: GIZ

Impact:

250+ women employed

Income generation for vulnerable households

Sustainable production and business training

Export-quality manufacturing

5. Launching Fully Equipped Women's Sports Club – Kabul

Year: 2015

Partners: USAID & ABADE

Impact:

National training center

Fitness, martial arts, team sports
Coach development programs

6. National Afghan Women's Sports Competition

Years: 2014 & 2015

Partners: Counterpart International, AWEC, Afghan NOC

Impact:

First national women's sporting event

600+ athletes

12 provinces represented

National media coverage

7. Violence Against Women Through Sport

Year: 2020

Partner: UN Women

Coverage: 5 Provinces

Impact:

800 women and girls engaged

Awareness workshops

Rights education

Psychosocial support

Community leader training

8. International Women's Day Celebrations – Afghanistan

Years: 2015 & 2020

Partner: UN Women & AWEC

Impact:

Large-scale national advocacy events

Public awareness campaigns

Leadership platforms for Afghan women

9. Coaching Training Program – Kabul

Year: 2014

Facilitators: American Coaches

Impact:

120 female coaches trained

National coaching curriculum introduced

Capacity-building of women leaders

10. First Sports Fashion Show for Afghan Women

Year: 2014

Impact:

Cultural innovation

Breaking taboos

Media & social transformation

Impact Summary (Afghanistan 2009–2018)

15,000+ direct & indirect beneficiaries

First women's sport infrastructure in Afghanistan

National-level programming in 12+ provinces

Strategic partnerships with UN, USAID, GIZ & major NGOs

Multiple international recognitions

International Recognition

Awarded Successful Afghan Entrepreneur – 2015, Dallas, USA

Presented by Laura Bush, Former First Lady of the United States

Strategic Legacy

ACSA's Afghanistan initiatives laid the foundation for international recognition, organizational credibility, and scalable program models, directly influencing the organization's successful establishment and growth in Canada.