

IMPACT REPORT

2023



ABOUT

No One Left Behind

Founded in 2014, No One Left Behind is the nation's oldest charitable organization dedicated to evacuating, resettling, and advocating for former interpreters and U.S. government employees eligible for the Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Programs.

What began as one newly arrived ally's act of generosity is now a source of hope for the more than 140,000 who have been left behind. Our mission, powered solely by generous donors like you, is to ensure that America's promise is fulfilled to those who selflessly stood by our veterans during our nation's longest war and beyond.

No One Left Behind Founder, Janis Shinwari, stands before the U.S. Capitol advocating for our allies before lawmakers.



Letter from the Executive Director

Throughout our nation's 20-year war in Afghanistan, allies stood by our troops interpreting the complexities of their culture to ensure the safety of our veterans. To our troops, they were heroes.

In 2023, you were the hero in the lives of the more than 4,000 Afghan allies No One Left Behind served through our evacuation, resettlement, and advocacy efforts. From far exceeding our initial goal of moving 1,000 to safety to building life-changing programs that better equip newly arrived allies, **none of the accomplishments detailed in the pages ahead would have been possible without you.**

Your unwavering support and commitment have not only saved lives but have also restored hope and dignity to those who risked everything to stand with us. As we reflect on the impact we made together in 2023, we are filled with gratitude for your generosity and excitement for what is to come.

On behalf of those we have served and the 140,000 left behind, **thank you for standing by America's promise and being a patriotic partner committed to finishing the mission.**

For Our Allies,



Mike Mitchell
Executive Director



EVACUATION

For many, when they think of Afghanistan, they have flashbacks of the heartbreaking images of allies desperately looking to flee their home during the Fall of Kabul in August of 2021. While that is not the exact scene today, the reality is that 140,000 allies are still in fear for their lives because of their service to our veterans. **With each passing day, their lives are increasingly at risk, and because of your support, No One Left Behind can bring allies to safety each day.**

In early 2023, No One Left Behind launched "Operation Save 1,000," the organization's mission to evacuate 1,000 allies out of Afghanistan. **With the help of dedicated donors, volunteers, and staff, we hit our goal, but we were not stopping there.** We quickly renamed the project to "Operation Save 2,000" in hopes of bringing a total of 2,000 to safety

before the close of the year. **By the time the clock struck midnight on December 31, 2023, No One Left Behind saved 2,487 lives, an accomplishment we know would have never been possible without your support.**

Adding to this remarkable success, No One Left Behind created the Volunteer Operations Center (VOC) in 2023 to increase its ability to serve clients throughout the evacuation process. The Center is run by volunteers who provide step-by-step updates to clients, send critical information to the U.S. Department of State's Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (CARE), and assist in further case management projects such as updating documents in our database. Each volunteer played an instrumental role in allowing us to save nearly two and a half times more allies than we originally set out to save at the start of the year.

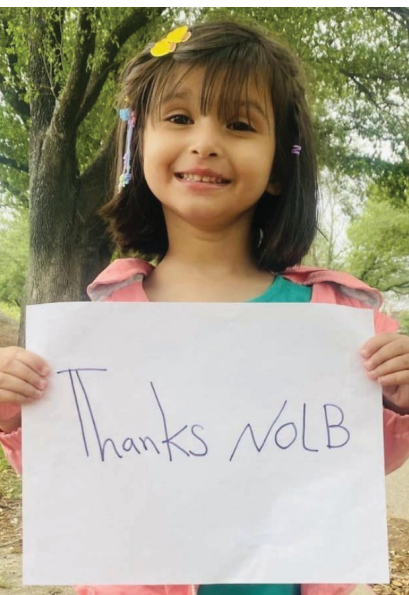
How does No One Left Behind select families for evacuation?

No One Left Behind is in contact with the U.S. Department of State on a weekly basis to ensure visa applicants who are eligible have a safe and legal pathway to the United States. The U.S. Department of State controls the process and pace that SIV applications are approved. Once Chief of Mission (COM) approval is granted and cases are ready for interview, No One Left Behind steps in to provide direct assistance.

Aaisha smiles and thanks No One Left Behind shortly after escaping Afghanistan.

Arshad and his four children are just five of the lives you joined us in saving last year. Here, the family poses for a photo before the first day of school in the United States.

Sadia arrived in Columbia, South Carolina in October 2023 and now resides in Gilbert, Arizona.



OPERATION SAVE

1,000

achieved by Summer 2023



OPERATION SAVE

2,000

launched July 2023



TOGETHER WE SAVED

2,487

lives by December 31, 2023



From Kabul to Houston: Ahmad's Service, Survival and Success

For Ahmad, serving American troops ran in his family. His father worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross while his brother was an interpreter for the U.S. Army. Ahmad took pride in building wastewater facilities, streets, buildings, and more as a civil engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers' Global Technology. Inspired by the opportunity to serve others, he found fulfillment in applying his academic knowledge to make a difference and work alongside the U.S. military.

After more than two years of service, the Fall of Kabul changed Afghanistan and life as Ahmad knew it. A life enriched with fulfillment and learning turned to one of fear and devastation as the Taliban took over. His family needed to get out. Their lives depended on it. Getting to Islamabad was only half of the battle. **In addition to case support, No One Left Behind ensured that Ahmad and his family had a roof over their heads and their medical needs were met.**

In April of 2023, their feet hit U.S. soil and thanks to you, the support did not stop there. Ahmad's drive for success, coupled with guidance from No One Left Behind, led him to obtain a job as a construction inspector for Harris County (Texas), using many of the skills he learned while serving in Afghanistan.

He credits much of his success to the organization for standing by his side from start to finish. In the coming months, Ahmad hopes to obtain his Engineer in Training (EIT) and Professional Engineer (PE) licenses.

Ahmad on the site of his new job as a construction inspector for Harris County in Southeast Texas.



RESETTLEMENT

Dear No One Left Behind Team,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the incredible support you've extended to me during a challenging time.

Your kindness in covering my rent through your organization has been nothing short of life changing. As you may know, I have been facing significant financial difficulties lately, and your timely assistance has lifted an immense burden off my shoulders.

Words cannot adequately convey how thankful I am for your generosity. Your selfless act has not only provided me with a safe and stable place to live, but it has also given me a renewed sense of hope and motivation to face the future with confidence.

No One Left Behind's commitment to helping individuals in need is truly commendable, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been a beneficiary of your charitable efforts. Your organization's dedication to supporting those in vulnerable situations is making a significant impact on countless lives, and I am a living testament to that.

Please extend my heartfelt thanks to all the donors, volunteers, and team members who made this assistance possible. Your compassion and empathy have touched my heart, and I promise to pay this kindness forward whenever I can.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for making a difference in my life. I will forever be grateful for your assistance, and I sincerely hope to be in a position to give back to the community just as you have done for me.

With warmest regards and profound appreciation,
Farhad Q.

Since No One Left Behind's founding in 2014, we have supported our allies here in the United States. Our resettlement programs aim to close the cultural gaps experienced by our allies upon arrival and guide them to resources that make the transition easier.

In addition to building our mentoring program (highlighted on page seven), No One Left Behind spent 2023 providing nearly \$500,000 in direct emergency assistance to newly arrived allies, building its soon-to-be-launched no-interest loan program, and furnishing the homes of 50 families.

Your support welcomed 1,542 individuals to America with open arms. On behalf of each of them, thank you.

WHAT IS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE?

Once an ally steps foot in America, they often arrive with few items. While grateful to be safe, support is still needed as they begin to settle into their new lives. With the help of generous donors like you, No One Left Behind carefully reviews requests for support and offers assistance in the areas of rent, emergency medical needs, and basic essentials.



1,542 ASSISTED ALLIES



PROVIDED NEARLY
\$500,000
IN EMERGENCY AID



73 RECRUITED VOLUNTEERS

Bridging the Promise

Picture this: You recently landed in the United States with your Special Immigration Visa in hand. Coming from Afghanistan, you arrive at the Land of the Free with few belongings and little understanding of your new home's way of life. You begin to seek employment but quickly realize that **securing a well-paying job is an overwhelming and seemingly impossible task without guidance. This is the reality faced by thousands each year.** In October of 2023, No One Left Behind launched Bridging the Promise, a mentorship program that pairs American professionals with newly arrived allies.

Your support and generosity allowed 30 allies (like Aziz, featured here) to experience this process first-hand in 2023 and allows it to continue this year.

I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to you and the entire NOLB's team, donors, mentor for the invaluable support and guidance throughout my job search journey. I am thrilled to share that I received an offer letter from Tesla and completed successfully all the pre-employment assessments and checks and I will commence my job at Tesla on Dec 04, 2023. When I arrived in the US about four months ago, I had a problem in applying jobs, luckily, I joined the NOLB's Bridge the Promise Program. This program with help of my mentor helped me to get the job at Tesla. Thanks to NOLB and its generous donors, I received the news of my approved car loan. It helps me commute from my place-Concord, CA to Tesla's location in Fremont, CA. I want to let you know how pivotal your efforts and assistance have been in transforming my career life. Thanks for all the good works you are doing. Best regards, ..

How it works:



No One Left Behind carefully pairs a newly arrived ally with an American professional who has experience in the ally's field of interest.



The mentor and mentee connect. Through meetings established on a timeline that best fits their schedules, the two get to know one another and begin to identify ways they can work together and help the ally find a job that matches their experience and interests.



The mentor shares their network, guidance, and expertise with their mentee while receiving continued training and support from No One Left Behind to ensure a successful relationship.



With the help of LinkedIn, No One Left Behind provides the mentee with access to the professional networking site's premium subscription at no cost for an entire year. This provides the opportunity to take courses, connect with employers, and apply for jobs.



Because of the time invested by the mentor, the ally secures a job that will be not only a source of income but also as a fresh start to their new lives in America.

Our Ambassador Program

Few people understand the experience of serving alongside American troops and the difficult journey to safety in the United States better than one who has personally walked through it themselves. No One Left Behind's 12 Ambassadors have done just that and now serve as an extension of the organization by working to build new

initiatives, identifying areas of need for allies, and connecting allies to resources in their local communities as well as within our programs. Just as translators interpreted Afghanistan to our veterans, our ambassadors translate America to newly arrived allies. **In 2023, all 1,542 allies assisted were a direct result of each ambassador's work as a case manager.**

KHALID HAMIDI

Northern Virginia

QAIS NAIB

Connecticut

ALI SEENA

Northern California

AQILA ZURMALWALL

Florida

SHADI HADI

Northern Virginia

NAJEEB AMINYAR

Northern Texas

ISMAIL KHAN

Washington State

SONIA NAWROOZ

Northern California

ELAHA RAHMAN

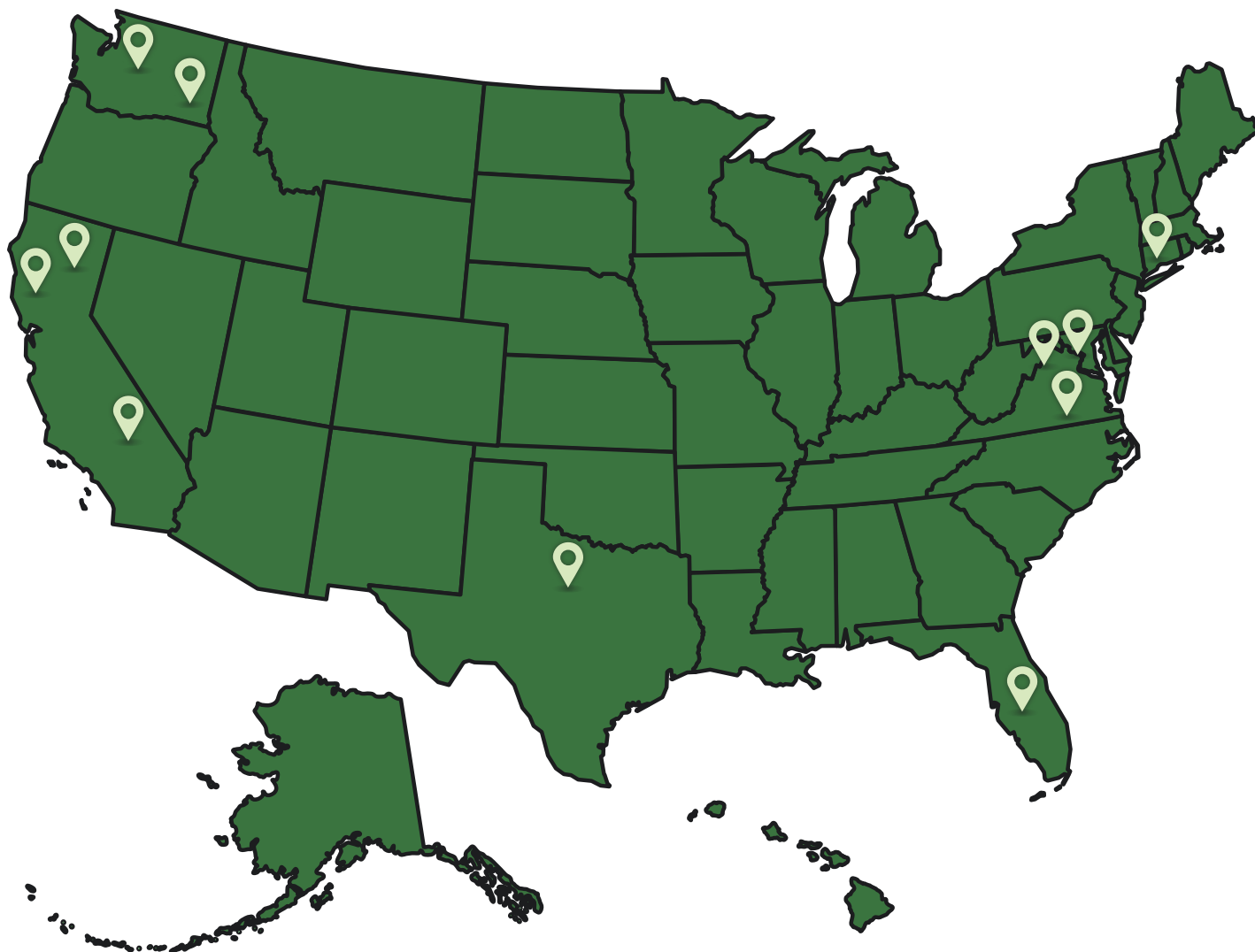
Virginia

MIKE JABBAR

Southern California

AHMAD ABID

Washington State





I entered a shop to buy us some drinks when I heard gunshots. I came out of the shop and saw Imdadullah being shot in front of his two kids and his kids crying. Imdadullah had done his Special Immigrant Visa interview in the Kabul embassy and was waiting for pickup before his hopes were shattered.”

—Mastafa, Respondent to
No One Left Behind’s survey on reprisal killings

Our Legislative Efforts

No One Left Behind’s advocacy efforts span far and wide to serve as a voice for our wartime allies before lawmakers. Because of generous supporters like you, we were successful in our advocacy mission last year. 2023 saw the fewest laws passed in Congress in decades, yet together we ensured America’s promise continued to be in the forefront of leaders’ minds on Capitol Hill.

Some of the highlights from No One Left Behind’s Congressional advocacy include the introduction of the Afghan Allies Protection Act and the Afghan Adjustment Act. These bills provide invaluable support to our Afghan allies in countless ways.

Despite the challenge of partisan gridlock in Congress, No One Left Behind helped secure the introduction of parts of these bills as amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These amendments were all bipartisan and received strong Congressional support. **One of our amendments was among the top three most supported bipartisan amendments of the over 1,550 that were offered.**

In addition to these legislative successes, No One Left Behind was a leader in pushing Congressional oversight, not just towards retrospective examinations

of the Afghan withdrawal but also to ensure that hearings are geared toward finding implementable policy solutions. As part of this effort, No One Left Behind testified in front of the House Foreign Affairs Committee about a report we conducted that examined Taliban reprisals against our allies. Our report was based on a survey of our Afghan allies—asking Special Immigrant Visa applicants and others in our network if they knew of any friends, colleagues, or family members who were targeted for reprisal due to their service to the U.S. mission. This survey was sent to over 13,600 individuals. While many of the responses were desperate pleas for help, we received reports of 242 reprisal killings against U.S. allies.

There is still work to be done. Not all of the provisions from the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2023 and the Afghan Adjustment Act have been passed into law. **With your continued support, No One Left Behind is optimistic that Congress will answer the call and pass these bills.**

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND IN THE PRESS

“

Mr. Rahmani's presence at the State of the Union doesn't just represent the 160,000 American allies left behind, but he also represents the many American lives that our Afghan partners saved serving our military,” Mike Mitchell, the organization's executive director, said in the statement.

Stars and Stripes February 7, 2023

“

It doesn't do enough to take full ownership of the continued problem looking forward to save the 160,000 to 200,000 of our Afghan partners who were left behind.” -Jeff Phaneuf, No One Left Behind Director of Advocacy.

NBC News April 6, 2023

“

Every day that our allies spend in Afghanistan is a day they remain in extreme peril,” said Andrew Sullivan, director of advocacy at No One Left Behind, a charitable organization supporting Afghans and Iraqis who worked for the U.S. military during the past two decades.

VOA June 8, 2023

“

Despite transportation difficulties, No One Left Behind has moved more than 400 principal SIV applicants and around 900 of their family members out of Afghanistan in the past fiscal year, with donated funds and the support of the CARE team and nonprofit partners.”

Fox News September 3, 2023

“

The dangerously slow SIV process has become practically a death sentence. No One Left Behind has documented hundreds of SIV applicants who were murdered while waiting for their visas... It doesn't have to be this way. The U.S. government can make life immeasurably better for tens of thousands of Afghan allies and their families.” -Annie Yu Kleiman, No One Left Behind Board of Directors.

Washington Post August 14, 2023



No One Left Behind staff, board members, ambassadors, and volunteers attend Los Angeles premiere of Guy Ritchie's *The Covenant*

No One Left Behind x The Covenant

Guy Ritchie's *The Covenant* tells the story of Sergeant John Kinley, portrayed by Jake Gyllenhaal, and interpreter Ahmed, brought to life by Dar Salim. Their unwavering commitment to one another and their country is a powerful narrative that mirrors the experiences of those we at No One Left Behind serve every day. Leading up to the film's release in April, we had the honor of working alongside MGM Studios to bring awareness to the ongoing struggles our allies still face.

Our collaboration included attending premieres in both Los Angeles and Washington D.C., where we had the opportunity to engage with audiences and

share our mission. Working closely with the talented production team and actors, we created a public service announcement that underscores the importance of remembering and supporting our allies. This partnership not only amplified our cause but also highlighted the real-life stakes and sacrifices that our mission addresses.

We are grateful to all who had a hand in creating this film and for the visibility it has brought to our critical work. You can now experience Guy Ritchie's *The Covenant* on Amazon Prime Video.



No One Left Behind Ambassadors, Ali (left) and Ismail (right), walk the red carpet at the Los Angeles premiere of Guy Ritchie's *The Covenant*



No One Left Behind's Matt Watters (Board Member and Army Veteran) and his interpreter speak with Jake Gyllenhaal, who plays Sgt John Kinley, about the film



No One Left Behind staff, board members, and ambassadors support the film's release at the Washington D.C. screening

LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

"I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the constant support and consideration I have received from No One Left Behind during my difficult times. Your assistance has meant a great deal to me and has enabled me to make ends meet when I needed it most. Your support has made a positive impact on my life, and I am truly grateful for your unwavering assistance."

-Abdul F.

"Thank you for always helping us during the SIV process. I now fully understand the meaning of the organization's name, 'No One Left Behind.' I would especially thank you for helping in a very bad time. My family, including my kids, will always remember and do our best to give back to this nation."

-Hassan M.

"Thank you very much for all of your help! We are finally here in California. A breath of relief for me and my family!!! I am starting a new life full of hope and opportunities here. I cordially thank No One Left Behind for sincerely and tirelessly helping the Afghan allies."

-Rohullah Z.

"Fortunately, today we received our exit permits thanks to your support and help. I am so grateful for No One Left Behind and its humanitarian help for me and my family!"

-Sharif P.

"Your generosity, support, and kindness have made a significant impact on our lives. We will never forget it. I am pleased to inform you that we are enjoying our stay here. We are grateful for the three meals a day that we receive and appreciate all the help you have provided us with. Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

-Noor E.

2024 10th Anniversary

This year, in 2024, your support will empower us to do even more. As we celebrate 10 years of No One Left Behind, we're setting out to accomplish our biggest goals yet: **evacuate 7,000 allies, assist in resettling 3,000 allies, and ensure that provisions protecting our commitment to our allies are included in critical legislation.** As the nation's oldest charitable organization dedicated to this work, we're honored to continue paving the way to a brighter future for the 140,000 Afghan brothers and sisters who have been left behind with steadfast partners like you.



WAYS TO GIVE:

As a non-governmental organization that relies strictly on generous donors like you, your support keeps our mission moving and ensures America's promise is fulfilled. Your gift will equip us to serve 10,000 in 2024 and serve as a source of hope for the 140,000 allies left behind. Thank you for your support, today and always!



BY MAIL:

4075 Wilson Blvd.
Office 855
Arlington, VA 22203



ONLINE:

nooneleft.org/donate

STAFF

In 2023, we grew our staff by 60% to better serve our clients. Across the team, there is more than 123 years of combined experience that directly relates to the work No One Left Behind does to assist America's wartime allies.

MIKE MITCHELL

Executive Director

RANKIN WELLER

Chief Development Officer

NOOR GREENE

Chief Operating Officer

JOSH EMERSON

Director of Resettlement

ANDREW SULLIVAN

Director of Advocacy

ANNA PEACOCK

Director of Marketing and Communications

LEESA YHIM

Director of Operations

SONIA NORTON

Deputy Director of Advocacy

AREEJ KHUSHABAKHT

Development Associate

CARRIE MAGGIO

Special Projects Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS *and* BOARD OF SENIOR ADVISORS

Thank you to our Board and Senior Advisors for their unwavering support and invaluable guidance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHIL CARUSO

Chairman

MARIAH SMITH

Vice Chairman

BLAKE LINDGREN

Treasurer

ANNIE YU KLEIMAN

Corporate Secretary

DOUG LIVERMORE

Chair, Advocacy Committee

GREG FAIRBANK

Chair, Finance Committee

HAL THOMAS

Chair, Development Committee

LOREN VOSS

Chair, Evacuation Committee

PARKER NORMANN

Chair, Resettlement Committee

FRANCE HOANG

HOWARD MANUEL

JD DOLAN

MATT WATTERS

BOARD OF SENIOR ADVISORS

AMBASSADOR RYAN CROCKER

GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS

NELL CADY-KRUSE

AMBASSADOR PAUL WOLFOWITZ

JANIS SHINWARI

DANA W. WHITE

GENERAL ALLISON HICKEY

MICHAEL HALEY

OWEN WEST

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK J. MURPHY



➤ NoOneLeft.org

✕ [N1LeftBehind](#)

f [NoOneLeftBehindUS](#)

▶ [@NoOneLeftBehindNOLB](#)

