

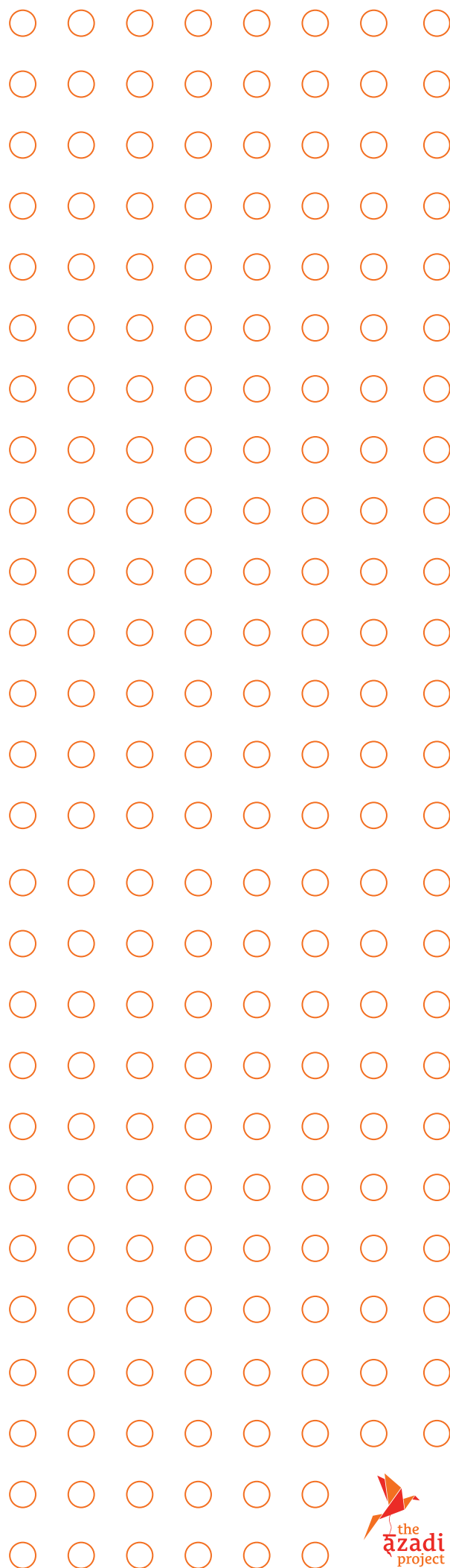
women leaders beyond borders
www.theazadiproject.com

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 03** Message from the founder
- 04** Mission, Vision and Approach
- 05** Our top programs in 2022
 - Objectives
 - Highlights
- 9** Programs impact
- 11** Financial report
- 12** Outlook in 2023
- 13** How to support Azadi



Message from the founder

After the Coronavirus pandemic that gripped the world for over two years, 2022 seemed to be promising. The world was beginning to pick itself up and heal. Sadly, this was not to be as Russia waged war on Ukraine. February 24, 2022 kickstarted a year-long attack that has left mass destruction of lives, property, and futures in its wake. While aid in the form of supplies and medical intervention was pouring in, mental health issues exacerbated by war-related trauma, including physical abuse and sexual violence, were not being given the same importance.

At The Azadi Project, we decided to expand our mental health and psychosocial support program to Poland, a country that had received the largest number of refugees from Ukraine – mostly women and children. In partnership with JCC Krakow, we set up base in Krakow, Poland, where we got to listen firsthand to refugee women's stories of loss and fear. We also got the opportunity to speak to many Polish volunteers and social workers who were working 24/7 to help the never-ending exodus of refugees into their cities. A highlight of our nine-month program in Poland was being selected as the organizing partner to facilitate a visit for three Nobel Peace Laureates to Poland.

In India we continued working with the Rohingya community in New Delhi. Our regular workshops and awareness drives on gender-based violence, STDs, contraceptives, gender equality, and basic health and hygiene have been well-received. Thanks to our generous donors and supporters, we were able to conduct two distribution drives – one for school and hygiene supplies, and one for warm winter blankets – that covered over 250 people from the Rohingya community.

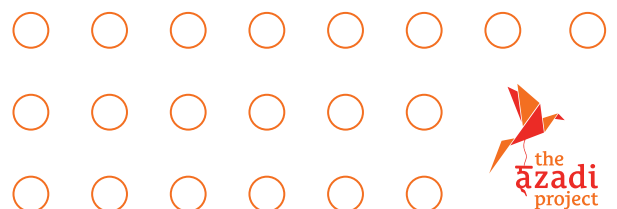


We also partnered with Rethinking Refugees to organize a first-of-its-kind conference in Chennai, India to help raise awareness and drive conversation around the plight of refugees and marginalized communities around the world. Spread over four days, the event had a mix of online and in-person sessions featuring talks by activists, refugees, poets, and human rights organizations, as well as a photo exhibition, music concerts and theater.

In 2023, our focus on mental health issues will continue, but we will also be launching a new flagship program in India focusing on building leadership skills and digital literacy among marginalized communities. As always, I am grateful to all of you that continue to believe in The Azadi Project and contribute either as donors, sponsors, volunteers, or simply by sharing our work on social media.

Priyali Sur

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Priyali Sur".



Mission, Vision and Approach

Mission

Our mission is to empower refugee, migrant, and marginalized women and girls to unleash their true potential and transform them into community leaders. We do this by providing leadership and livelihood skills along with psychosocial support in safe spaces.

Vision

Azadi envisions a world where women from refugee and marginalized communities can access their rights universally; and are not limited by geographical borders, or their race, religion, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation.

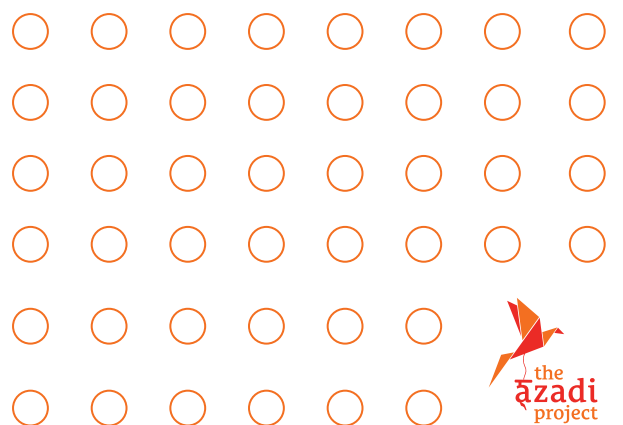
Approach

Our unique community-based model was created to meet the various challenges faced by women from refugee and marginalized communities.

Run by trained facilitators and therapists, these sessions are conducted in a safe space for refugee and marginalized women to share feelings with others in similar situations. The group sessions de-escalate the women's emergency mental health situations by providing peer support. The forum helps refugee women deal with trauma; as well as mental health illnesses like depression, anxiety, and PTSD using a range of creative tools including art therapy.

The program builds resilience and confidence to transform women refugees into leaders and agents of change, enabling them to identify solutions to mental health and gender equity issues and implement them in their community.

The component of providing leadership, public speaking and livelihood skills is designed to provide a holistic learning opportunity to marginalized and refugee women. This trains them to enter the job market and take on leadership roles. Women who represent marginalized and migrant communities, are women of color, and/or survivors of violence are prioritized.



Our top programs in 2022

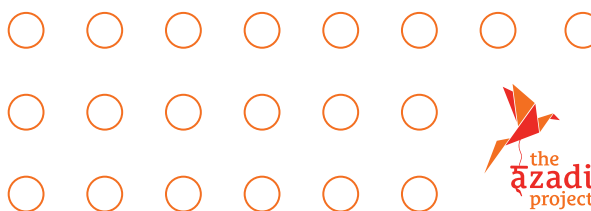
Objectives

- We offered psychosocial support in a safe space to almost 50 Ukrainian refugee women in Krakow, Poland.
- We conducted leadership programs and psychosocial support for Rohingya refugee women in New Delhi, India. In addition to that we carried out three phases of sensitization and awareness raising programs on issues such as gender-based violence, trafficking, child marriage, women's health and hygiene for the Rohingya community. Our workshops helped transform women and men refugees into community leaders, who helped disseminate this knowledge further.
- We ran workshops to educate and sensitize Rohingya refugee men on issues of gender-based violence, trafficking, child marriage, gender roles and gender equality in New Delhi, India.
- We partnered with Rethinking Refugees to organize and host India's first-ever event focusing solely on refugee and statelessness issues. The four-day event (December 15-18, 2022) included panel discussions by renowned experts and activists, charity performances, a photo exhibition, and more. The event, 'Rethinking Refugees – Azadi to co-exist', was a mix of in-person and online sessions that promoted a holistic understanding of the contemporary refugee situation worldwide and in India.



Highlights

- We partnered with The Nobel Women's Initiative to host a delegation of three Nobel peace laureates—Tawakkol Karman of Yemen, Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, and Jody Williams of the United States—to Poland to speak with Ukrainian women displaced because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We facilitated the delegation's meeting with displaced women and women's organizations, human rights organizations, humanitarian agencies and activists in Krakow and Rzeszow, Poland. (June 20-24, 2022)



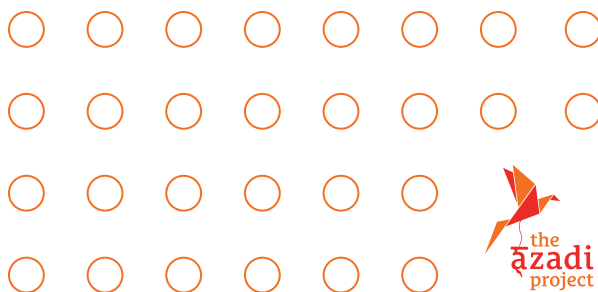
Storytelling & Psychosocial Support Program : Krakow, Poland

We developed a program where we conducted weekly group sessions with a certified female Ukrainian therapist in a safe space in the center of Krakow. This was modeled around self-help support groups. Program was based on therapy and coaching techniques and strategies. The facilitators were responsible for fostering discussions among a participant group of no more than 10-12 women.

We facilitated two groups of eight women per session, once a week. In this setting, women were free to attend and share stories, anxieties, fears, or struggles with other participants and the facilitators or to just listen to other attendees. With this model, participants were allowed to control the amount of information they shared and their narrative. They were also given tools and strategies by our therapist on how to cope with anxiety, unprocessed grief and anger.

Group support sessions took place in a safe and clean space offered by JCC, Krakow (Jewish Community Center). We created a warm and welcoming place including providing refreshments to our participants. By doing so we enhanced the positive experience of well being and being cared for. These sessions not only alleviated the emotional and psychosocial stress that Ukrainian refugee women suffered but also nurtured and brought to the forefront emerging women leaders among them.

We also offered individual therapy sessions to women who asked for it. These women were either members of the group session or women who had been referred to us.



Leadership & Psychosocial Support Program: New Delhi, India

The Azadi Project partnered with Ummid Ki Udan in New Delhi to carry out a storytelling, leadership and psychosocial support program from May–June 2022. A trained female group facilitator held five sessions for 15 Rohingya refugee women and local community women who currently reside in New Delhi, in Khadar (Kanchan Kunj, Shram Vihar). Another trained male group facilitator held four sessions for Rohingya refugee boys and men who currently reside in the same area.

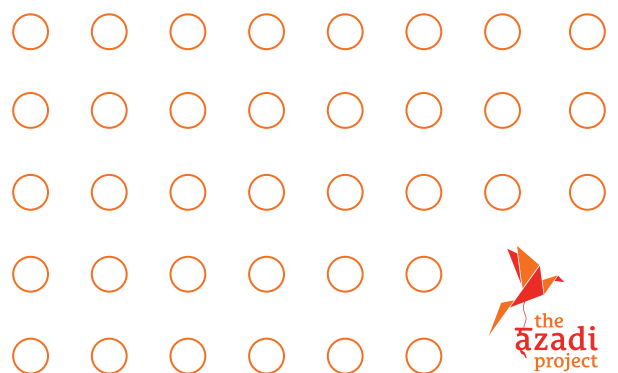
The workshop focused on the art of storytelling and its therapeutic benefits, by creating a safe space for the beneficiaries to interact in. Through this, it sensitized and created increased awareness about issues such as gender-based violence, trafficking, child marriage, women’s health and hygiene.

Sensitization Campaign on Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, Child Marriage and Trafficking: New Delhi, India

We carried out a three-phased door-to-door sensitization campaign reaching out to almost 300 Rohingya refugees living in New Delhi, India. The aim was to reduce the high prevalence of intimate-partner violence and child marriage through increased awareness. In addition, the sensitization campaign also shared information on accessing support for physical, sexual and mental health issues, especially for women.

Relief Aid Distribution of Essentials including Blankets, Sanitary Products and Clothes: New Delhi, India

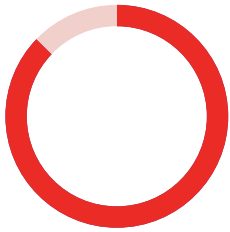
We conducted two distribution campaigns for the Rohingya refugee and marginalized communities in New Delhi during Eid and during the winter. We provided essential items to almost 250 people living in Kanchan Kunj, Delhi.



Programs Impact : Krakow, Poland

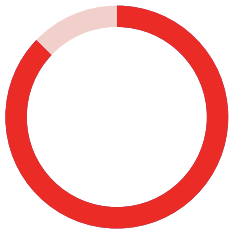
50 Ukranian women refugees

Based on our program evaluation in Krakow we got the following results:



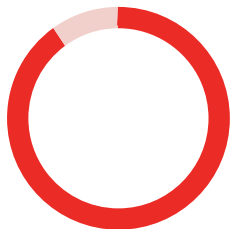
87%

87% of group participants indicate that the workshop activities are helpful to relieve stress.



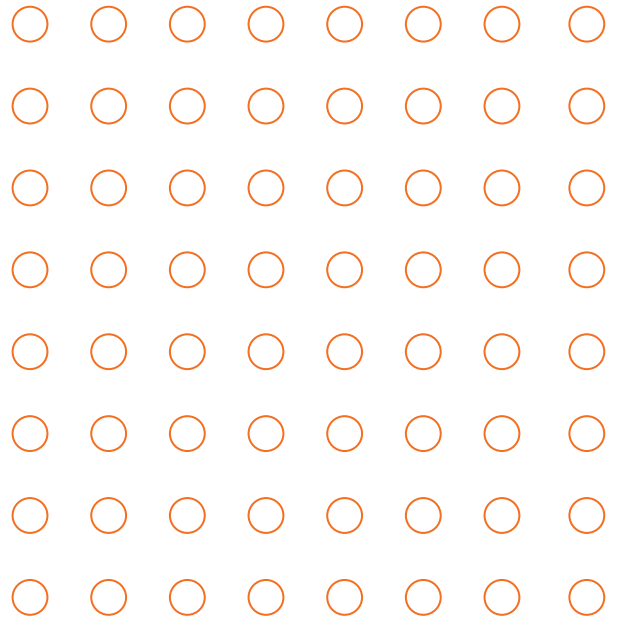
87%

87% of group participants felt a sense of community in the workshop.



90%

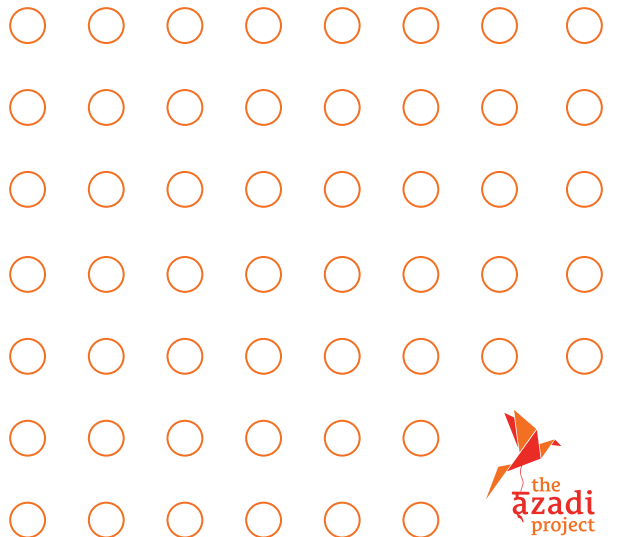
90% of participants in group sessions, indicated that they had a positive experience.

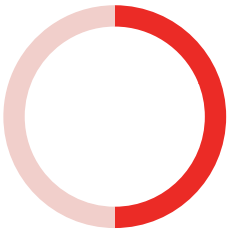


“

I am attending such sessions for the first time, and what I felt there and the information I received was very valuable for me. This is a wonderful experience I definitely liked it a lot.

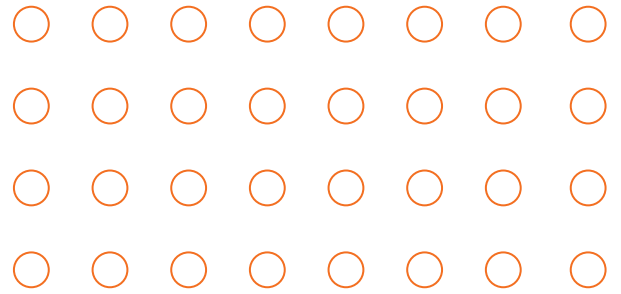
”





50%

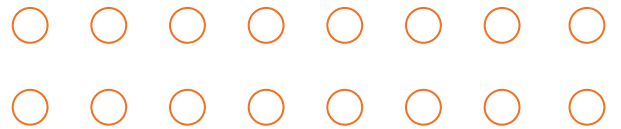
50% of individual participants indicate that the one-on-one sessions are helpful to recontextualize the importance of self-preservation.



“

The therapist was very pleasant, beautiful, tactful. I liked listening and I can't wait for the next lesson... and what she told.

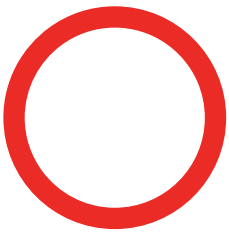
”



“

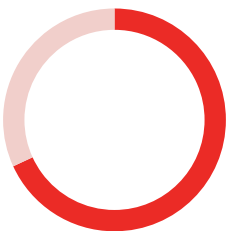
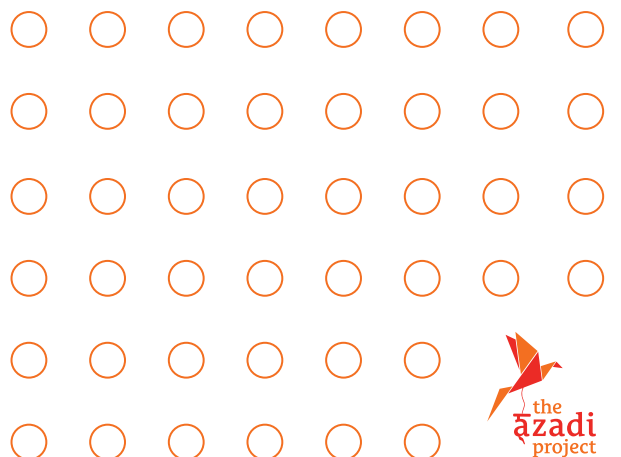
I can communicate more with my father, stop thinking about those people whom I cannot influence, and start taking care of myself and my loved ones, remember that everyone does what is within their capabilities.

”



100%

100% of participants think the workshop length was “Just About Right”.



67%

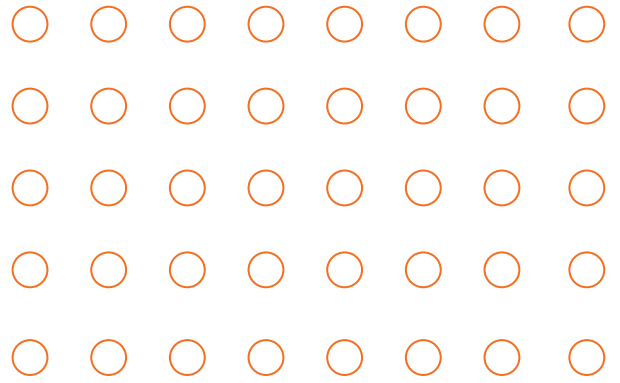
67% of participants indicated they would work on self-regulation and self-worth to help with their anxiety and self-confidence.



Programs Impact : New Delhi, India

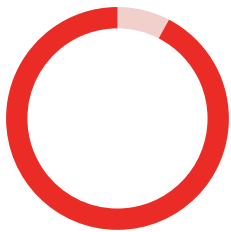
300 Rohingya refugees

Based on our program evaluation in New Delhi we got the following results:



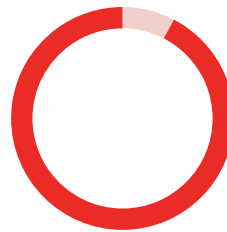
Before

After



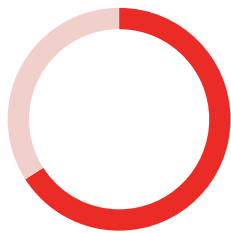
8% women knew what STD is

8%



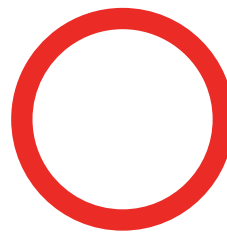
100% women knew what STD is

100%



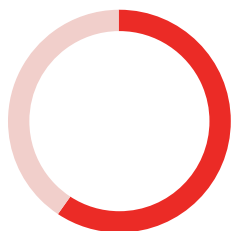
66% knew how to dispose of pads.

66%



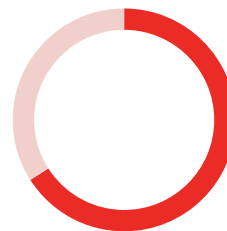
100% women learned how to dispose pads.

100%



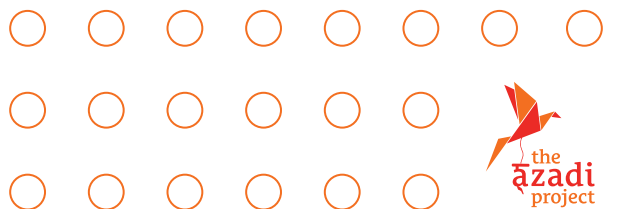
58% women think that contraception and use of condoms are not important.

58%



63% of women think that contraception and use of condoms are important.

63%



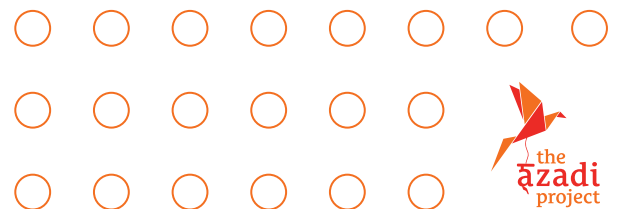
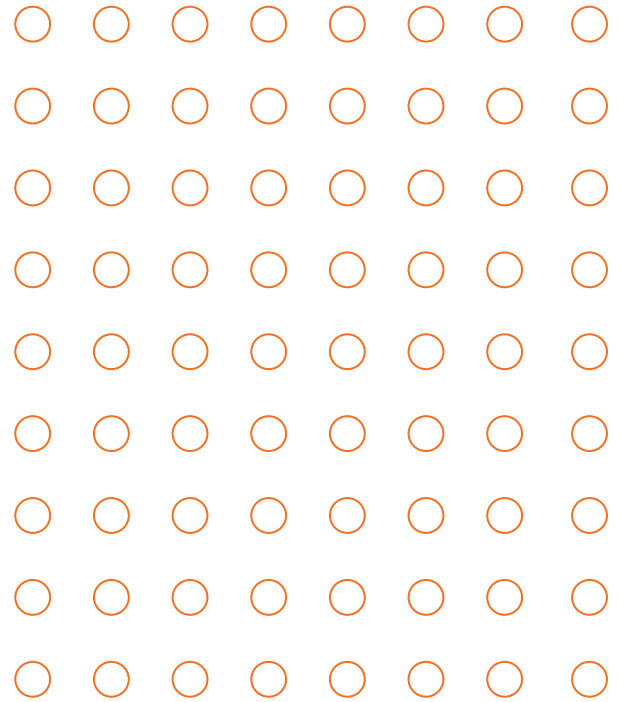
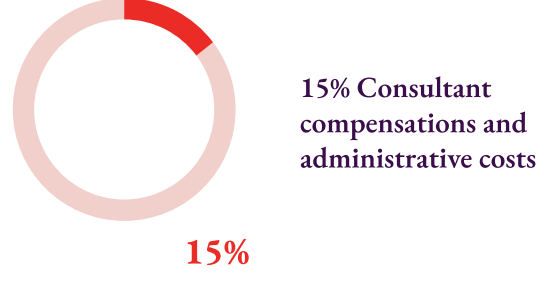
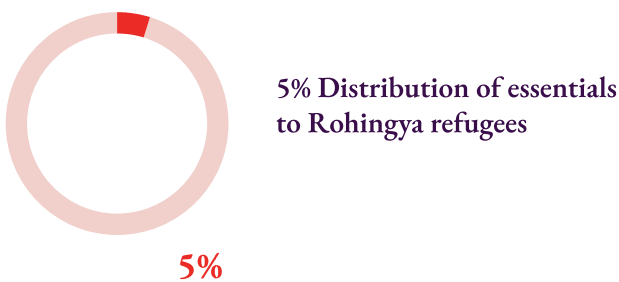
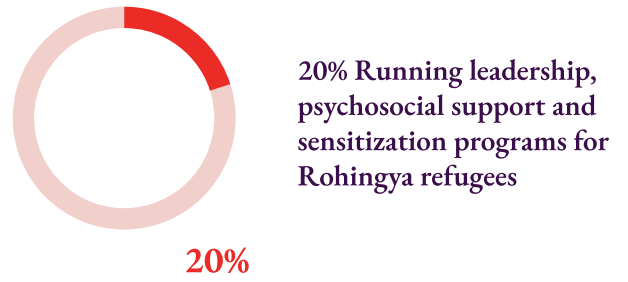
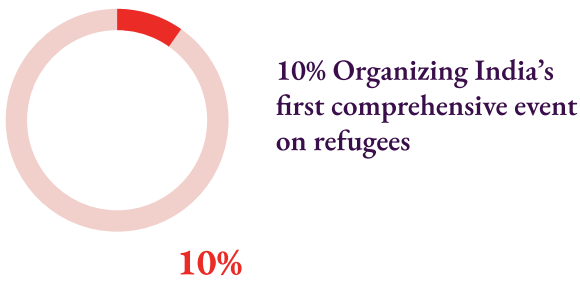
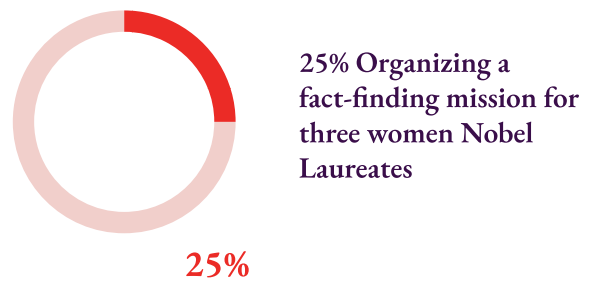
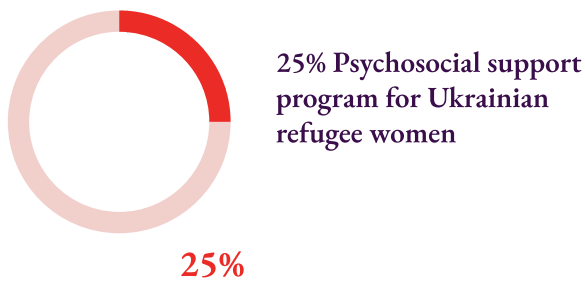
Financial Report Summary, 2022

In 2022 our work was supported by grantor organizations and individual donors from the United States and Canada. In addition to many individual donors, some of our key donors and grantors were :

1. Nobel Women’s Initiative
2. The Libra Group
3. Robert J. Abernethy
4. Sheryl Sandberg

Total incoming funds
\$75,000 USD approx in 2022.

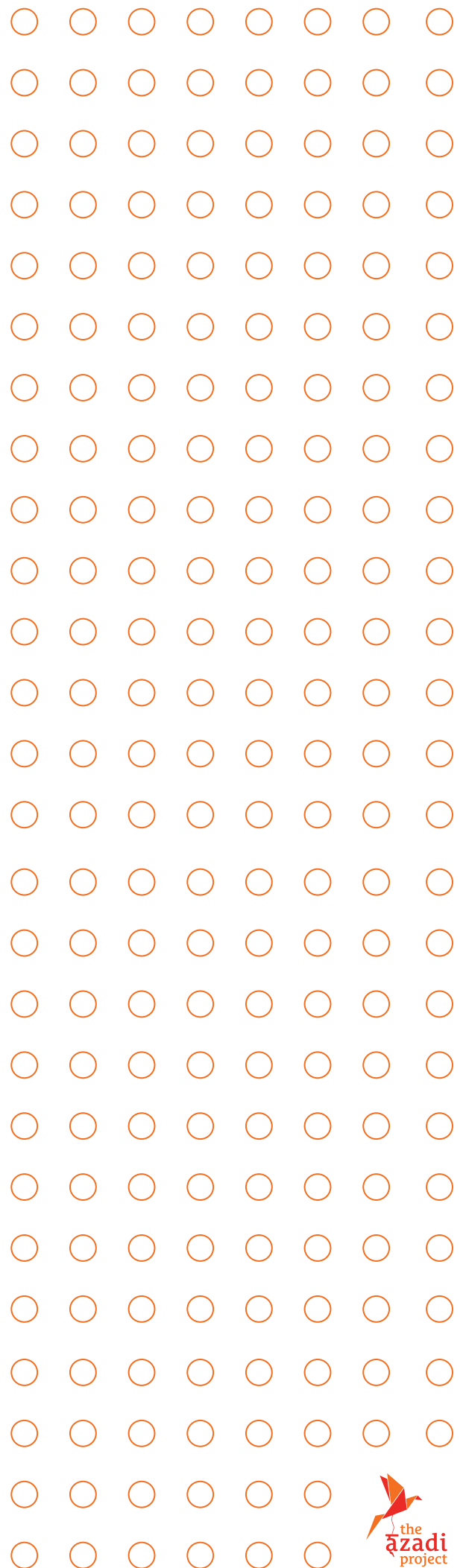
Breakdown of our annual expenses



Outlook in 2023

In 2023, we remain committed to supporting women from refugee and marginalized communities access their rights, focus on their mental wellbeing, and learn livelihood and leadership skills that will help them become employable.

The Azadi Project will start a new leadership program to support refugee and marginalized women. The Azadi Leadership Program will provide career skills, leadership training and internships to a cohort of 10 participants, mostly women and youth from refugee and marginalized communities in India. The program will be launched in partnership with and will be supported by Libra Group Social Responsibility. Participants will be assisted to enter the workforce through online and in-person training and industry internships. Through this program, they will transformed into leaders who can inspire others in their community. We will also continue our work with the Rohingya refugee community in India. In addition to providing workshops to improve their mental health conditions and raising awareness around women's empowerment and health: we will also be carrying out an in depth survey culminating in a report that highlights the challenges faced by the Rohingya refugees living in India.

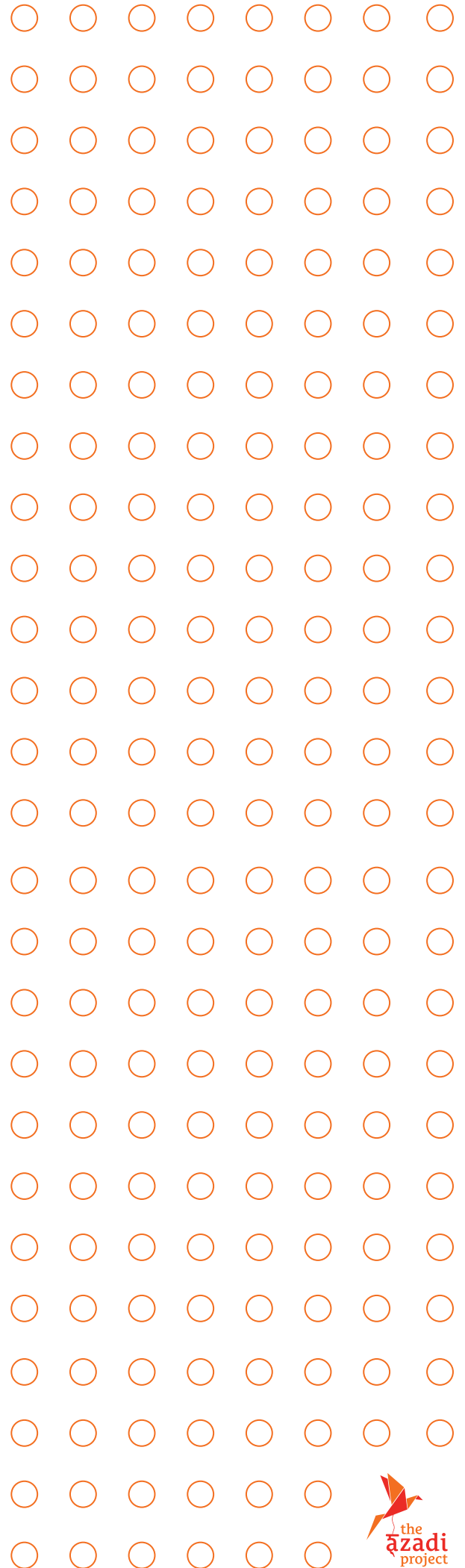


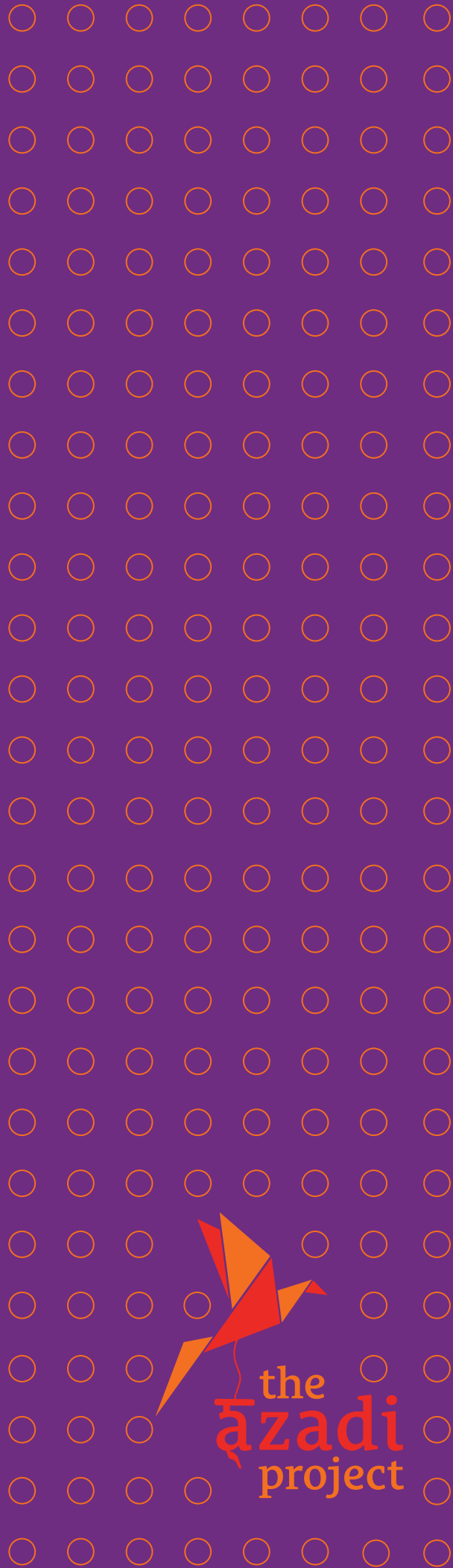
How to support Azadi

If you are an individual who is interested in refugee and women's rights issues, you can support Azadi by volunteering with us. We offer in person and remote volunteer opportunities. You can also donate to any of our programs or choose to support a specific refugee woman and her educational or health needs. We can help you get connected. If field work and writing is what you love, you can research and write articles and blogs for us on refugee and women's rights issues. Most importantly you can share about us and our work.

If you are an organization wanting to partner with us, please write to us at :

info@theazadiproject.com





the
āzadi
project