



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

**Unisfere Foundation**

*Together Towards Sustainable Development*

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*Empowering Afghan Youth Through Academic Research*

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# 1. Foreword

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2024 was Unisfere's second operational year and the year in which the model proved it was repeatable. Running a research fellowship inside Afghanistan — partially online, entirely volunteer-driven, and dependent on fellows finding internet access and time in a country under immense pressure — is not straightforward. Running it a second time, with a cohort of 140 fellows in Phase 1 and 20 advancing to mentored research, confirmed that the first year was not an anomaly.

The 2024 cohort benefited from lessons learned in 2023. Workshop delivery was more structured, mentor matching was more efficient, and our partner network expanded to include the Rumi Organisation for Research and Education Bridge for Afghanistan (EBA). We also began offering practical support beyond research training — including facilitated access to **Duolingo language learning** tools and guidance on higher education pathways through our growing alumni network.

Unisfere remained an unfunded initiative throughout 2024. Every hour of delivery was volunteered. Every connection made between a fellow and a mentor, between a young Afghan researcher and a global academic, was built on goodwill and shared commitment to the mission. That is something to acknowledge honestly — and also something that cannot continue indefinitely at the scale we intend to reach.

This report documents what the second cohort produced and who made it possible.

**Mohammad Tahir Ghori**

Founder and Chairperson, Unisfere Foundation

## 2. Contact Information

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<b>Organisation</b>	Unisfere Foundation
<b>Status (2024)</b>	Independent non-governmental initiative (formally registered as Stichting Unisfere in the Netherlands in September 2025)
<b>Founded</b>	2022
<b>Website</b>	www.unisfere.com
<b>Email</b>	info@unisfere.com / fellowship@unisfere.com
<b>Phone</b>	0031 683090727
<b>Social media</b>	Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn (@Unisfere)
<b>Area of work</b>	International — primary focus: Afghanistan
<b>Target group</b>	Afghan youth and young professionals (under 35)

### Board (2024)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Background</b>
Mohammad Tahir Ghori	Founder and Chairperson	Urban Water Management and Climate Adaptation Advisor
Jamilurahman Monir	Co-Founder and Secretary	Water and sustainable development professional
Noor Ahmad Yaqubi	Co-Founder and Treasurer	Researcher in hydro-climatic extremes

### 3. Who We Are

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Unisfere is an independent, non-governmental initiative dedicated to sustainable development. Founded in 2022, our goal is to contribute to the implementation and localisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through youth empowerment, research, public awareness, and knowledge-sharing.

*Vision:* To be a catalyst for positive change by fostering impactful research, building capacity, and empowering individuals and organizations to create sustainable, informed solutions for a better tomorrow.

*Mission:* At Unisfere, our mission is to bridge gaps between local and global communities by promoting research, sharing knowledge, and empowering youth and professionals with the tools and skills they need to tackle pressing challenges and unlock opportunities for sustainable development.

#### Aims:

- Deliver accessible, high-quality research training to Afghan youth who lack pathways to academic participation
- Generate locally grounded, evidence-based research on community challenges across Afghanistan
- Connect Afghan researchers with international mentors and academic networks
- Publish fellow research to inform policy, development interventions, and public discourse
- Localise the UN SDGs based on evidence produced by fellows
- Cultivate a long-term pipeline of young Afghan researchers and community leaders

## 4. Unisfere in 2024 — Structure and Team

In 2024, Unisfere continued to operate as a fully volunteer-run initiative. The team expanded in capacity through the addition of new partner organisations, and several coordinators took on broader responsibilities as the program grew.

### Board

Name	Role	Background
Mohammad Tahir Ghori	Founder and Chairperson	Urban Water Management and Climate Adaptation Advisor
Jamilurahman Monir	Co-Founder and Secretary	Water and sustainable development professional
Noor Ahmad Yaqubi	Co-Founder and Treasurer	Researcher in hydro-climatic extremes

### Volunteer Program Coordinators

Name	Role	Background
Wazir Armin	Executive and Country Director – Afghanistan	IS/IT Audit Expert
Azizollah Rezaie	Executive Director	Education development expert (SDG 4); Programs Director, VDO; Adjunct Lecturer, Khatam-al-Nabieen University
Shahpoor Mutafaker	Communications and PR Coordinator	Law and Political Science; manages Joya Professional Learning Center
Marwa Alam Safa	Outreach Coordinator	Environmental specialist; founder of CEYI; Kabul University graduate
Fawad Homan	IT / Webmaster	IT
Arif Alkozay	Fellowship Coordinator – Academic	Civil Engineering; former Research Coordinator, Herat University
Aliya Haidary	Fellowship Coordinator – Public Outreach	Master of Education; M&E Officer, international organisation

### Partners (2024)

Partner	Role
MSSADO	Local coordination, community networks, participant outreach in Afghanistan
Rumi Organisation for Research	Research support and academic collaboration

All team members and partners contributed on a fully voluntary basis. No remuneration was paid to any board member, coordinator, or mentor during 2024.

## 5. Projects and Activities

### 5.1 Research Fellowship 2024 — Overview

The 2024 Unisfere Research Fellowship was the second cohort of the program. Building on the model established in 2023, the fellowship maintained its fully online, mentorship-based structure while incorporating improvements to workshop delivery, mentor coordination, and fellow support services.

The fellowship was run with continued support from MSSADO for local coordination in Afghanistan, and with the addition of Rumi Organisation for Research and Education Bridge for Afghanistan (EBA) as new partners, broadening the scope of academic and career support available to fellows.

### 5.2 Program Structure and Curriculum

Phase	Duration	Content and Output
Phase 1: Workshops	3 months	Online workshops covering research methodology, academic writing, data analysis, digital skills, and sustainability. Output: short research proposal and Phase 1 certificate.
Phase 2: Mentorship	6 months	Fellows paired with vetted international mentors (predominantly PhD holders). Bi-weekly online meetings. Fellows conduct field research locally. Output: full academic research report.

### 5.3 Participants and Phases

Indicator	2024 Result
Fellows enrolled — Phase 1	140
Fellows advanced — Phase 2 (mentorship)	20
International mentors	20+
Research articles produced	20+
Papers published in external journals	2
Abstracts published on Unisfere website	[ see <a href="https://unisfere.com/research">unisfere.com/research</a> ]
Program duration	9 months

### 5.4 Additional Fellow Support

In 2024, Unisfere expanded its support offer beyond research training to include practical tools and opportunities for fellows' broader development:

- Duolingo language learning vouchers were sourced and distributed to fellows free of charge, supporting English language development as a critical skill for international academic participation and career progression.
- Higher education opportunities — including scholarship programmes, graduate school applications, and international study pathways — were actively identified and

shared with fellows and alumni through Unisfere's communications channels and growing alumni network. Fellows received personalised guidance where requested.

## 5.5 Impact and Outcomes

For fellows:

- Training in research methodology, academic writing, data analysis, and sustainability — skills with limited availability through formal Afghan educational institutions under current conditions
- Hands-on experience conducting original field research in their home communities
- Published research outputs for use in future academic and professional applications
- Mentorship from international academics, exposing fellows to global research standards and networks
- Access to language learning tools (Duolingo) and guidance on higher education pathways

For sustainable development:

- New body of research on Afghan community challenges, aligned with the UN SDGs
- Evidence-based findings available to policymakers, NGOs, and development practitioners
- Continued contribution to closing the gap between talented Afghan youth and international academic participation

Research themes addressed in the 2024 cohort spanned water scarcity, environmental issues, education access, sanitation, and community health — all directly relevant to Afghan communities and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

## 6. Financial Report

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Unisfere operated with no external funding in 2024. The entire financial foundation of the year was a personal contribution by the founder and chairperson, **Mohammad Tahir Ghori**.

### 1.1. Income

Table 1 Income

Source	Amount
<b>Self-donation — (founder and chairperson)</b>	€ 500.00
<b>External grants</b>	€ 0.00
<b>Institutional contributions</b>	€ 0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€ 500.00</b>

### 1.1. Expenditure

Table 2 Expenditure

Item	Amount
<b>Website domain — <a href="http://www.unisfere.com">www.unisfere.com</a> (GoDaddy, annual payment)</b>	€ [X]
<b>Website hosting — <a href="http://www.unisfere.com">www.unisfere.com</a> (GoDaddy, monthly payments)</b>	€ [X]
<b>Zoom platform (online workshop and mentorship sessions)</b>	€ [X]
<b>Social media promotion — call for applications</b>	€ [X]
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 500.00</b>

The individual line item amounts above need to be completed by the treasurer from payment records. The total is confirmed at €500.

Unisfere remained an unfunded initiative throughout 2024, operating entirely on volunteer time. No external grants or institutional funding were received. Full financial records are maintained by the Treasurer and are available upon request.

Note: Formal statutory accounts under Dutch foundation law apply from the date of incorporation as Stichting Unisfere in September 2025. The 2024 financial records are maintained as part of Unisfere's organisational history.

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Prepared by the Board of Unisfere Foundation

**Mohammad Tahir Ghori | Jamilurahman Monir | Noor Ahmad Yaqubi**

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