



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025

**Stichting Unisfere**

*Together Towards Sustainable Development*

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*Empowering Afghan Youth Through Academic Research*

Formally registered: Gemeente Zuidplas, The Netherlands | KvK 98420747  
unisfere.com | info@unisfere.com

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# 1. Foreword

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2025 was the most significant year in Unisfere's history — not because of what happened in the fellowship, though the third cohort ran well, but because of what happened in the Netherlands. On 22 September 2025, Unisfere was formally incorporated as Stichting Unisfere before a notary in Rotterdam, and registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (KvK 98420747). Three years after the initiative began, it became a legal entity.

That formalisation matters for one reason above all others: it makes funding possible. We can now receive grants, sign agreements, and hold accounts as an institution. Everything we have done since 2022 — the three fellowship cohorts, the 240+ fellows trained, the six internationally published research articles, the mentor network spanning over 30 countries — was built without that legal infrastructure. What it demonstrates is the depth of the mission. What formalisation opens up is the ability to scale it.

The 2025 fellowship cohort trained 101 fellows in Phase 1 and advanced 20 to mentored research. Two more papers were published in external academic journals, and fellows once again received Duolingo language learning support and guidance on international higher education opportunities. The model continues to work. The task now is to resource it properly.

This report covers both the third fellowship cohort and the formal establishment of the foundation. We present it as both an operational account and a statement of institutional readiness.

## **Mohammad Tahir Ghori**

Founder and Chairperson, Stichting Unisfere

## 2. Contact Information

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<b>Statutory name</b>	Stichting Unisfere
<b>Legal form</b>	Stichting (Foundation)
<b>Statutory seat</b>	Gemeente Zuidplas, The Netherlands
<b>KvK number</b>	98420747
<b>RSIN</b>	868486401
<b>Date of incorporation</b>	22 September 2025
<b>First KvK registration</b>	29 September 2025
<b>Address</b>	Zevenhuizen, Zuidplas
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.unisfere.com">www.unisfere.com</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:info@unisfere.com">info@unisfere.com</a> / <a href="mailto:fellowship@unisfere.com">fellowship@unisfere.com</a>
<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)
<b>SBI-code</b>	88999 — Overige welzijnszorg

### 3. Who We Are

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Stichting Unisfere is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable development in developing countries by strengthening individuals, communities, and organisations. Founded as an initiative in 2022 and formally incorporated in the Netherlands in 2025, our work is non-political and non-profit, focused entirely on serving the public interest.

*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.

*Core philosophy:* We believe youth are change agents, not merely beneficiaries. The communities most affected by development challenges are best placed to research and articulate those challenges — if they are given the tools to do so.

*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. Stichting Unisfere in 2025 — Structure and Team

### 4.1 Formal Registration

**Key milestone: Stichting Unisfere was formally incorporated on 22 September 2025 and registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (KvK) on 29 September 2025. This marks the transition from a volunteer initiative to a legally recognised Dutch foundation.**

The foundation was incorporated before notary Mr. Sebastiaan Vermeul in Rotterdam. The three founders were appointed as the first board. The foundation operates under Dutch foundation law (Boek 2 BW) and is structured to pursue ANBI status (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling), which would enable tax-deductible donations.

The foundation's statutory purpose is to serve the public interest by promoting sustainable development in developing countries through strengthening individuals, communities, and organisations.

### 4.2 Board and Governance

The board holds full legal responsibility for the foundation and is collectively authorised to represent and bind the foundation. No single board member may act independently — all legal decisions require joint authorisation.

Name	Title	Date in function	Authority
Mohammad Tahir Ghori	Voorzitter (Chairperson)	22-09-2025	Jointly authorised
Jamilurahman Monir	Secretaris (Secretary)	22-09-2025	Jointly authorised
Noor Ahmad Yaqubi	Penningmeester (Treasurer)	22-09-2025	Jointly authorised

### 4.3 Operational Team (Volunteer)

The internal operational team supports day-to-day program delivery on a fully voluntary basis. These roles are not registered with the KvK and carry no independent legal authority. All internal operations run under the authority of the formal board.

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	Program Manager / Outreach Coordinator	Environmental specialist; founder of CEYI; Kabul University graduate
Fawad Homan	IT / Webmaster	
Arif Alkozay	Fellowship Coordinator – Academic	Civil Engineering; MSc candidate, Swansea University; former Research Coordinator, Herat University
Aliya Haidary	Fellowship Coordinator – Public Outreach	Master of Education; M&E Officer, international organisation

#### 4.4 Partners

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

## 5. Projects and Activities

### 5.1 Research Fellowship 2025 — Overview

The 2025 Unisfere Research Fellowship was the third cohort of the program. Running concurrently with the foundation's formal legal registration, the 2025 cohort consolidated the model developed over the preceding two years and continued to demonstrate the viability of online, volunteer-driven, internationally mentored research training for Afghan youth.

The cohort was supported by MSSADO, Rumi Organisation for Research. Over 30 international academic researchers — predominantly PhD holders — volunteered as mentors, providing direct supervision, bi-weekly meetings, and adherence to international research ethics standards.

### 5.2 Program Structure and Curriculum

Phase	Duration	Content and Output
<b>Phase 1: Learning</b>	3 months (March)	Online workshops on topic selection, proposal development, research ethics, methodology, and academic writing. Output: short research proposal and Phase 1 certificate.
<b>Phase 2: Execution</b>	4 months (June–Sept)	Fellows selected from Phase 1. Bi-weekly mentor meetings. Field research conducted locally. Output: full academic research report.
<b>Phase 3: Defense</b>	1 month	Presentation of findings to a panel of judges. Defense of data, methodology, and conclusions.
<b>Phase 4: Alumni and Growth</b>	Ongoing	Guidance on higher education pathways, scholarship applications, and career mentorship. Alumni encouraged to return as volunteer coordinators.

### 5.3 Participants and Phases

Indicator	2025 Result
Fellows enrolled — Phase 1	101
Fellows advanced — Phase 2 (mentorship)	20
International mentors	30+
Research articles produced	20+
Papers published in external journals	2
Abstracts published on Unisfere website	[see unisfere.com/research]
Gender breakdown — Phase 2	65% female / 35% male
Program duration	9+ months (4 phases)

### 5.4 Additional Fellow Support

- 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 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
- Hands-on field research experience conducted locally while connecting to global academic networks
- Published research outputs — articles and abstracts — for use in academic and professional applications
- Direct mentorship from international PhD-level researchers
- Access to Duolingo language learning tools and structured higher education guidance
- Certification awarded upon completion of Phase 1 and the full program

For sustainable development:

- New research on Afghan community challenges, aligned with the UN SDGs and available to policymakers and development practitioners
- Growing body of evidence generated from within Afghanistan, by Afghan researchers
- Alumni returning to coordinate and mentor future cohorts — establishing a self-reinforcing research community

Research themes addressed in the 2025 cohort continued to span water scarcity, environmental challenges, education access, sanitation, and community health — all directly relevant to Afghan communities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## 5.6 Cumulative Impact 2023–2025

Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Phase 1 fellows trained	240	140	101
Phase 2 fellows (mentored research)	20	20	20
Papers published in external journals	2	2	2
Abstracts on Unisfere website	[18]	[11]	[12]

## 6. Financial Report

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Unisfere operated with no external funding in 2025. 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.

Stichting Unisfere's first formal boekjaar runs from 22 September 2025 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2025.

The foundation received no external grants or institutional funding in 2025. All program delivery continued to be carried out on a voluntary basis. Full financial records are available upon request.

Note: Unisfere will pursue ANBI status, which requires annual publication of financial statements on the foundation's website. This will be implemented in the 2026 reporting cycle.

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Prepared by the Board of Stichting Unisfere

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

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