Glimpses of Hope in the Shadow of War
Afghan Youth’s Outlook on the Future: Selected Essays and Drawings

Ed. by
Aisha-Nusrat Ahmad
Ulrike Auge
Khesraw Majidi
Phil C. Langer

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The following compilation represents a selection of more than 170 essays and drawings that were collected in the Afghan Youth Project in different schools and orphanages in the Balkh province in 2016 and 2017. J.M. Gillespie and G.W. Allport’s (1955) study “Youth’s outlook on the future” provided the starting point for using projective essays as a biographical method in social psychology. The essays answered the question: How do you imagine your life within the next 10 years? After finishing the essay, the children were asked to draw a painting that corresponds to the essay. More methodological considerations can be found in Langer, C. W. & Ahmad, A. N. (2018). Psychologie und Biographieforschung. In H. Lutz et al. (eds.), Handbuch Biographieforschung (pp. 175–186). Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Contact information

Prof. Dr. Phil. C. Langer, International Psychoanalytic University Berlin, Stromstr. 3b, 10555 Berlin, Germany; e-mail: sozpsy@ipu-berlin.de.
Mariam
18 years old, living in a rural area in the Balkh province

By the name of almighty Allah, the most compassionate and the most merciful.
My wishes and hopes

Humans always want to have a comfortable life and everywhere each human being has different wishes and hopes. My first wish is to have peace all over my poor country. The one and only wish of all Afghans is peace. Everyone wishes to live happily. My wish is to have peace in the country, so I could finish my studies and get the admission into the university and after finishing my higher education serve honestly from the bottom of my heart my country. Our country needs us to protect it from this situation. Until I breathe, I will serve this country. I wish very much to become a successful doctor and serve my dear country. I wish very much that my country's people be happy and have a comfortable life. We are tired of all these fights and our ears are tired of listening to the word fighting and the sounds of explosions and we cannot suffer anymore. We have never seen or heard that the areas or province have been taken back by the government from cruel insurgents or the Taliban. We always hear that the provinces or the areas are captured by the Taliban. It is enough now, and our people cannot suffer the pain anymore. Whenever mothers lose their children there are always tears in the eyes of the mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers. We want peace and we Afghans are thirsty for peace. We wish that these wishes are fulfilled and thanks a lot you all dears.«

Mariam

May peace be upon you all.
Bashir
15 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

"People's lives are full of accidents. Especially people who live in Afghanistan."

"It's an illusion. If we do not have peace I can forget all my imaginings and hopes."

"I hope peace would shine like this sun."

"Now I imagine if there is peace I can graduate from the medical university and achieve the ambitions that I have had for many years."

"Without this situation we cannot progress or study because our culture and knowledge are lower than those people who live in Europe and other countries. These are all disasters and misfortunes because of 30 years of war."

"But other than these people who live in Europe and other countries, these disasters and misfortunes are like these wars. Finally, we hope to have peace all over Afghanistan. If we do not have peace, I can forget all the imaginations and hopes that motivate me to live."

"If we do not have peace, I will have to live like this.

"People's lives are full of accidents. Especially people who live in Afghanistan."

"My imagination and vagary for the next ten years can be different because nowadays our government and the people are focusing on peace. If the heads of the state bring peace to us we can be good citizens with a good culture, we could be reflective and thoughtful people to manage our life and country."

"Now I imagine if there is peace I can graduate from the medical university and achieve the ambitions that I have had for many years."

"If we think logically with this situation we cannot progress or study because our culture and knowledge are lower than those people who live in Europe and other countries. These are all disasters and misfortunes because of 30 years of war."

"Finally, we hope to have peace all over Afghanistan. If we do not have peace, I can forget all the imaginations and hopes that motivate me to live."

"I hope peace would shine like this sun."
Shaista
16 years old, living in a rural area in the Balkh province

"I always think positively. I wish that peace would come all over my beautiful country. We are the future makers of the country. We should always struggle and try hard to be successful. Today there are conspiracies of the Taliban and IS in the country, so they could stop us from improvements by their unjust acts and confuse our minds. I see our people's future bright. Human beings are able to achieve everything by making an effort. Today all study materials are provided for us. Technology has been improved, then why should we not use our brain. We should stand on our feet and use our brain and imagination. We should keep in mind that we will have a great future. Today all youths go to foreign countries because they think they will have a comfortable life there, but it is not true, in fact, they ruin their birthplace, so let us give hands to hands to have a beautiful Afghanistan. We should use our power by ourselves and suppress the insurgents. One of the ways of success is to have faith in your power and yourself. We should not think about what we are, we should see what we should do and where we want to go. Let's achieve our goals of success in the best way in our power and yourself. We should learn from the best way in our life and achieve our goals in the best way in our life. Afghanistan is our mother. We should use our power by ourselves and suppress the insurgents. We should not look at others, we should only look at ourselves and our life. Afghanistan is our mother. We should use our power by ourselves and suppress the insurgents. We should learn from the best way in our life and achieve our goals in the best way in our life.

We can give colors to our country by education as flowers make colorful the garden. Only the people in the country can decorate the country, as only the people can make the garden beautiful."

Poem: "We can give colors to our country by education as flowers make colorful the garden. Only the people in the country can decorate the country, as only the people can make the garden beautiful."

These are our crying women who are begging today. This is our Afghanistan. In the next ten years, it will be green and beautiful.
Farhad
15 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

"If I think for myself then I want to have peace for the next ten centuries. If we live a peaceful life for the next ten years we would have a life everyone would want to have. I hope that one day peace will be established in all Afghanistan. Peace is the sweetest word. If we live ten years in peace we would have such a great improvement. Racism, religion, hostility will be abolished and people who graduate from different departments can have jobs in the field of their studies. And the country also likes to have peace. A country like Afghanistan that has had wars and insecurity for several decades would most likely want to have peace. It does not matter male or female everyone loves peace. If we live for the next ten years in a peaceful life I can continue my studies in my favorite subjects which is engineering, technology, and chemistry. If we talk about wasita I would rather not study. And now I want to say some words about my insecure nation, Afghanistan: when there is a suicide bomb attack, everyone will think for one month or one week about the people that died or got hurt. It is a shock to the entire country. When there is an accident or disaster, people will think about the situation for a long time. This is why we all love to have peace and security.

Live in Peace."

Two things that can even give sight to those who are blind:

Pen and book.
In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful.

Maria, 14 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.

For the next ten years, I want to be a doctor and serve the community. My imagination is basically to study in the medical field so that I could serve my society. I do not waste time and always try to be myself. I want to use my time very carefully.

In our country, the government should work with the communities and to have peace within our own people in this country. gaze for my government to give me the chance to connect with other countries and to work for the future. I am a girl, but I have some ideas. I say that the people in the last 25 years have lived in the war. I want to serve those people who lived their life in the war. I want to serve society. I accept that my country will use my ideas in the future. I hope you guys use my ideas in a good way in the future.

In the Balkh province in the urban area.

Maria
16 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

Peace and Freedom.

Rahim

First of all, when a person grows up, they need to build a personality for themselves and we can do this with education. Nowadays, Afghanistan's situation is not good. No matter how much we study, still the educational level in Afghanistan is lower compared to other countries. And, insecurity is our weakness. I want to be a businessman in the future. No security, peace, no good laws have always made us hopeless. We cannot study well in this dangerous situation. All the young generation want to have the main role in bringing peace to Afghanistan. I think from now until the next ten years the situation in Afghanistan will be the same because until we do not try to be united in order to bring peace nothing will change. The only reason that we are not improving is the insecurity and lack of peace. I want to study well and bring peace in Afghanistan. And I am thankful for my God for giving me these skills.
Mariam
16 years old, living in a rural area in the Balkh province

"My imaginations for my life in the next ten years are that first of all, we should have peace and security in the country and there would be only friendship and love in the hearts of our people. Everyone's eyes should say long live freedom and all students could easily go to courses and schools with a passion. Like me, I want them girls could easily go to courses and schools.

I want that fighting should not be a part of the country.

My country and my nation are my life and every human being cares for their life. I want everyone in the country to have a similar financial and economic situation. Maybe you would ask me why I wrote it? I wrote it because everyone complains about his or her financial situation in the country.

I want that fighting should not be a part of the country.

I am waiting for peace to get green."
Nasrullah
15 years old, living in a rural area in the Balkh province
»We want a peaceful Afghanistan with no fight. We want everyone who brings the fight and destroys Afghanistan to be destroyed. I want to become an army soldier so that I could protect Afghanistan from the ongoing fights. I want schools to be well-equipped and universities to have a high standard teaching system. We want courses to be established in our province. I want to continue my higher education in a secure and peaceful environment and my last wish is to start my higher education abroad. I want to continue my higher education in a secure and peaceful environment and my last wish is to start my higher education abroad. We want to finish our studies in a peaceful environment. We want our neighbors to help our schools. I want to pass the conquer exam and continue my studies in my favorite field. I want to finish school. I would like to help Afghanistan. We want our neighbors to help our schools. I want to pass the conquer exam and continue my studies in my favorite field. We want courses to be established in our province. I want to continue my higher education in a secure and peaceful environment and my last wish is to start my higher education abroad. I want to continue my higher education out of the country. I want foreign scholarships to be provided for us.

Peace.
Hadisa, 15 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.

I want to continue my studies in the next four years in a peaceful environment and in a good school like the private school I am attending. In school, I want to have good marks and gain lots of education and pass the university entry exam and want to get a good position. I wish that the entry exam goes well and the bright students who deserve it would pass the exam and I want to be one of them. In the future, I want to be a lawyer, that will take 4 semesters of study. During that time, I would like to work as a teacher and after finishing that I want to be an advocate and I want to serve my people. And I want to defend the ones whose rights were violated. I want to promote and develop peace in Afghanistan. I want to do things that serve me in this life and hereafter. And I wish when I become a lawyer there would be peace in Afghanistan so that I could do my job without fear. I support the people that are honest and innocent. I want to defend women's rights when I am a lawyer. I want to serve Afghanistan so that God and my parents would be satisfied with me. And I want to prevent those who migrate to other countries and I want to provide jobs in our own country because the foreign countries distance Afghan people from their families and their religion. I want to stay a faithful girl and be with God.

The education of the young generation is important to me because the young generation is the future of the country. I want to provide a good place for children in order to become bright. I want to continue my studies in the next four years in a peaceful environment and in a good school like the private school I am attending. In school, I want to have good marks and gain lots of education and pass the university entry exam and want to get a good position. I wish that the entry exam goes well and the bright students who deserve it would pass the exam and I want to be one of them. In the future, I want to be a lawyer, that will take 4 semesters of study. During that time, I would like to work as a teacher and after finishing that I want to be an advocate and I want to serve my people. And I want to defend the ones whose rights were violated. I want to promote and develop peace in Afghanistan. I want to do things that serve me in this life and hereafter. And I wish when I become a lawyer there would be peace in Afghanistan so that I could do my job without fear. I support the people that are honest and innocent. I want to defend women's rights when I am a lawyer. I want to serve Afghanistan so that God and my parents would be satisfied with me. And I want to prevent those who migrate to other countries and I want to provide jobs in our own country because the foreign countries distance Afghan people from their families and their religion. I want to stay a faithful girl and be with God.

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Zahir
15 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

»I am a student of the 9th class. We are 10 members in the family, five brothers, and four sisters. We have a middle-class life. My elder brother is a student of a university and doing his third year in political science. I want to become a lawyer in the future and help the people who need justice because Afghanistan's situation is not very good right now and the ones who have high power have gotten it by corruption, power etc. The ones who have a high education, good grades do not get the chance to serve the country. I want them to protect our innocent people from these cruel people because our neighboring countries do not want our country to improve. They send terrorists to our country, spread hostility, hatred and interfere with our internal issues and bring fights to our dear country. Pakistan and America are enemies of our country. In the past, schools' subjects were all general and after ten years of education in school, students were choosing their fields of interest. Now Pakistani and Indian states bring their own education systems to our country and our students are learning different subjects. This way they want to divide our students into different parts, make them illiterate, and make us dependent on them. Thanks for your program.«

We want peace.
Shumaila, 13 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.

«Of course, everyone has imaginations in their mind when they think about how to realize them. My imagination, first of all, is that I should pass the upcoming university entry exam and should think how I could get into my ideal field of study and if I could get selected for a job after the graduation or not. Of course, everyone studies with the wish to help their family and people. The question is whether we can have these opportunities or not. None of the youths can reach their aims with such a government full of corruption, racism, discrimination etc. We have a conflicted country and we need a strong and powerful government which would be clean from corruption etc. We need and want that our country like other neighboring countries to be developed. A country has several properties. Our country is a rich country and if we use its treasure, of course, our country will improve and develop, and I want everyone whether in a high or low position to give hand in hand and to rescue the country from this miserable situation. A high level of security and education could help our people to build our country. For improvements, we need education and security. The development of a country is linked to education. Everyone wants, they are provided the best opportunity to study. We want from the government to improve the level of education until we do not need to go abroad to study. We want to erase the word war from our country forever and want to have peace instead because everyone needs peace. Our religion is Islam and Islam means peace and unity, not war. First of all, I want the American forces to go out of Afghanistan because they are the root of the war in Afghanistan. The Americans came for their special aims in our country not for ending the war. They have left behind a conflicted country which is rich in resources and we want to develop our country. Our country is a rich country and if we use its resources, we can have high living standard. Our country is a rich country and if we develop our country, we will have victories. We will have peace.

Peace is our motto. If peace is our motto, we will have victories.»

«Wartime are real cuties.»

13 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.
Hashmat
13 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

"We see today that the situation in Afghanistan is improving. We would try to work diligently for peace and the improvement of Afghanistan. If we are interested in education and upbringing, education is necessary for the future and gaining power to gain our future. Let us put our efforts to achieve peace and security in Afghanistan.

I am an Afghan child and I pray to God for bringing peace and security to Afghanistan. We should have peace and happiness in our lives. Peace and happiness are important for brothers and sisters because brothers and sisters always care about each other.

As it is written in the Hadith, bringing peace to a country is like to bring back a child to his/her mother's womb. Muslims are like brothers and sisters because they have always peace among themselves because of the Prophet's words: "We are brothers and sisters. The right hand of the one is the left hand of the other." Education and upbringing would develop us into the best citizens of the country. If we have the right upbringing, we would know how to work and develop our country. If we are educated and have the right upbringing, we would be able to lead the country.

For the future that is ahead of us, we should have strength and power to gain a better education and intelligence. Education is necessary for the future and I wish for education, peace, and calmness. If there is no peace in Afghanistan, we cannot receive an education. It is peace that enables education."

Book and pen.
We want peace.

In the name of almighty Allah, the most compassionate and the most merciful.

Wishes for a better tomorrow

Firstly, we want peace, so we could continue our education and higher education. I hope that our children should not be killed before they be able to learn in their voluntary arts. Schools should be protected for some people. It is our duty to put an end to violence and war. We hope that we could live in a friendly and peaceful environment and become successful doctors and nurses.

I want to live in a friendly and peaceful environment and become a successful doctor in the future. If peace comes permanently to Afghanistan, we can reach to a high level of success. Now that there are insecurity and instability in our country, we cannot study with a peaceful mind. I hope that I become a successful doctor and nurse in a friendly environment. I want to graduate with high grades from school and successfully get to my interested field of study, which is medicine. I want to become a servant for my family, country, and society in a friendly environment.

I hope that we could get rid of the misfortune and violence in Afghanistan. If there are no misfortunes, we can study with a peaceful mind. We request the international organizations to help the Afghan people. We want our children to be happy and study in a friendly environment. We want to graduate with high grades from school and successfully get to our interested field of study, which is medicine. I hope that this would be a better tomorrow for all Afghans. I want to live in a friendly and peaceful environment and become a successful doctor and nurse in the future.
In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful.

Peace and freedom.

Faisal
16 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

Peace and freedom. Peace and freedom.

In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful.

These days Afghanistan is in serious situation. The youth worries about how to liberate themselves out of this situation. Me, like many other youngsters, have these thoughts. I love my Islamic society and I want it to remain like this. That is the reason why first we should find ourselves and then we should think about the society. Those people who do not think about work and life are those who are not successful in life. Regarding the next ten years, I have lots of thoughts. But those are also shared by others: security and our responsibility towards the country.

The security will ensure that people will find tranquility in the society and will live far from fear and shocks. A society can only be very good and without problems, when peace is ensured. Peace has a remarkable outcome for the society. Every human loves to live in a society, where peace is guaranteed. Like me.

Peace: Living together, hand in hand, far from war and conflicts. For the next ten years, that are associated with my own future, I have a lot of ideas that I am striving for. First of all, the most important thing for me is bringing security and overall peace. Then I would like to live in a wonderful society, with a lot of good natural resources, where my own future can be secure. I want to face a happy life and towards the next ten years I have a lot of ideas and thoughts to improve the society.

I am grateful and proud that you found us worthy to write about this topic.«
Khadija
17 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

We want this Afghanistan.

First of all, I want to graduate from school. Then I want to study in a good university inshallah and I want to be a servant for my people. I love the law. I want to use new opinions. And the only ambition that I have in my mind is to have peace and security in our country. And I want all the children to go to school and study and we eliminate poverty. Now, Afghanistan is in a bad situation and we want to end it as soon as possible. I am proud that I am from Afghanistan. You can use my ideas. Most of our compatriots go abroad. Many of them go illegally there, some of them arrive there safely and some of them drown in the rivers in Turkey and Greece. It really hurts us when we hear this news. If we have peace in our country, no one would like to go away from their family and home, they leave because they are concerned about their security and they do not want to lose freedom of being in their own country. If our country is safe, we can travel there and feel happy. And I think we cannot just sit and do nothing, we need to do something for our country. I have a dream that I can go to university, you want to study and help others. I want to be a lawyer and do justice truthfully not like right now. They take bribes and appoint judges and the justice is unjust as we have seen in Farkhanda’s case. We need peace. We need justice. Afghanistan is in this situation.
Malika
17 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.

Graduation from a medical university.

Malika’s hopes in the near future to achieve their main objectives. I also have peace, greenness, and achieving the wishes and graduating from the medical university.

Everyone has hopes in their lives to achieve their main objectives. I also have hopes for my future and in the near future, I want to become a successful doctor because my favorite field is medicine and I want to be a person that my mother and father are proud of. I want to be the one who helps others. I have two wishes in my life: First, I want to serve my father and my mother and respect them endlessly. Second, when I will be a successful doctor, I want to have great ideas and use the experiences of others and get experience in my life. It is not important whether humans achieve their hopes but it is important that people should achieve their desires and get experience in life. If we make an effort, if we make an effort for our hopes, then we will be successful. If we respect our desires and get experience in life, we can achieve our aims.

At the end, I want to say one word: Making an effort is the correct way to achieve our aims and Allah is the best instrument.
Sarah
17 years old living in a rural area in the Balkh province

We need peace and education for achieving our wishes, as trees need water and energy.

My future as a nurse.

By the name of Almighty Allah, the most merciful and the most compassionate.

Salam o Alaikum
Salam to those respected people who have planned this program and thanks to them.

Youth's life
Life and habits change by time. Living with families in Afghanistan is a valuable part of the social life. Youths especially females have problems and they cannot take decisions independently. They face many problems in their life, for example, harassment by bad boys; they harass girls while they go to the university, also other problems like, financial problems, illiterate families that do not know the value of education, lack of educational materials for students such as books etc.

I start by telling about myself first, this year our school did not provide me books for studying. Lack of materials for practical work in a laboratory is one of the problems too. The new generation wants to have professional teachers as well as complete educational materials. They want peace all over Afghanistan and they want to have jobs. The new generation wants to have education and we do not want our enemies by the names of Taliban and IS to destroy our unity. My name is Sarah and I want to study in the nursing field and help and solve the problems of our sisters and mothers who have suffered a lot. Everyone should try to bring changes, starting from themselves. Everyone should serve honestly and truly. I will be a graduate student next year and I want to finish university and want to serve in the future.

Poem: "Come, the peace bird and bring the peace message because everyone is waiting for you to bring the message of peace to them.
Everyone is waiting for days and nights for peace to come and life is successful. Everyone talks about peace and everyone hopes for peace."

We need peace and education for achieving our wishes, as trees need water and energy.
According to your instructions, I should say that my first wish or imagination as an Afghan youth is peace, security, and equality all over the country so that we can live in a peaceful and secure environment and have freedom of thinking. Youths should take a pen in their hands, not weapons. I myself especially want that all Afghan youths should have a high personality and be an example not only in Afghanistan but to the world. I want to be a person that protects Afghanistan from conflicts and fights against all those people who bring fights into the country and still are proud of themselves. They change the country into a war and killing zone of human groups. I want everyone to live in a peaceful and secure environment. Having peace means having life, having a family, and having everything. I want poverty to be eliminated in this country. I want to get rid of discrimination in this country. By writing this essay, I cannot explain all the pains and voices of the Afghan youths. All Afghan youths are afraid of these things. Afghan youths continue their education despite their mental suffering. These Afghan youths tell themselves that they are Afghans and they have the intention to get rid of poverty and discrimination in the country.

In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful.

Rohullah
16 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.
Peace and unity.

20 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.

The society you live in has always an influence on your life. That's why first of all I will explain and write my imagination about my dear country. I want peace and security all over my country in the future. I wish that we have a powerful government that could serve the people and have a rule of law and fulfills their promises in an honest way. I want a real national unity and acceptance of each other. I want political, economic and cultural freedom in my country. I want that my country should stand on its feet without being dependent on other countries and should move towards development and comfort. When my country is in peace and built up, all my imaginations could come true. I want all girls who have graduated from schools to continue their higher education. I want higher educational institutes and universities especially to be built for women that all the girls that are not allowed to continue their education in co-educational institutes could get the permission. I want to continue my higher education in the future and become a gynecologist and work in a faraway district of my country because there are no female doctors. Therefore, the females lose their lives and I could help them to save their lives. Despite being a doctor, I want to be a very kind teacher and want to teach to the newcomer students with kindness and honesty. I should change their concept of fights, hates and ethnic discrimination. I should show them the way of humanity and human acceptance. I should change their concept of fights, hates and ethnic discrimination in my school. I should change their concept of fights, hates and ethnic discrimination in my school. I should change their concept of fights, hates and ethnic discrimination in my school.

The future depends on God. But we can try and work hard because God says you have to move. And I will pave the way.
I want to become an excellent reporter in the future.

We do not want people to abandon women anymore.

I want to be an excellent reporter. This is my biggest wish since my childhood and will remain to be. But I am concerned whether I can achieve my wishes in the current situation or not because Afghanistan is in a condition that we cannot breathe even peacefully but still I will struggle to change my wish into reality because this is the one and only important wish of mine. I am a girl that was born in a poor family and faced a lot of problems and difficulties, not only me but probably other girls too. The children are also facing these problems and I never thought that I am a poor girl and I should quit school. I resisted against my family and financial problems and that’s why I am here now. The only way of success is to try your best. I want security in Afghanistan so I and the others could achieve their wishes. All our wishes will come true and we can achieve our goals. If I had not worked hard I would not have been here now. I have always strived for my goals and have worked hard for my education. I have always been an exception in my class. I did not think to quit school when I was in 9th grade because I wanted to achieve my goals. I studied school together with my sister because of financial problems she had to quit school. But I wanted to study school and achieve my goals. My sister was started school together with me but because of financial problems she had to quit school from the 9th class. I did not think to quit school in any case, because I want to be an example for others. And I want to have an excellent personality in the next ten years that I could solve my family’s problems and solve my country’s problems because it is very important for me to have an excellent personality in the next ten years to achieve my goals.

We do not want the girls to be abandoned from schools.

16 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province.
Mujeeb
13 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

I want to continue my studies for the next ten years and if there will be peace, I can study well. When I finish my studies, I want to beat Einstein's ratio for formula. I want to beat Einstein's 5000 years' challenge to transform material into energy and energy into a material. America and China have tried it but were not able to complete it and again, I want to beat Einstein in reducing 20% that they were not able to reduce. I want to beat Einstein in reducing material into energy. If there is peace, Afghans can invent good things that no one has done so far. Without peace, Afghans will not be able to improve their minds and capabilities. Peace is our national ambition. Without peace, I cannot achieve my ambitions. Afghan people have a good mind but there is no peace for them to improve it. If there is peace, Afghan people can contribute to progress in various fields.
I am a student of class 9 and I am the eighth son of the family. I have many imaginations from today until the next ten years. My first wish is that I could protect my country and my compatriots from the current ongoing crises in the country and my second wish is to be an effective and helpful person for my society and provide help to all our people. My services are such as:

1. I want to be a scholar and have a lot of knowledge and could serve and develop my country and my desperate people through it.
2. I want to provide educational centers for the people who are illiterate so that they could benefit from having education as well.
3. I want to take the drug addicts to health facilities with experienced and capable doctors so that they could get help from addiction and be able to go on with their lives.
4. I want to develop agriculture in the country and provide facilities for our farmers so that our country could have well development in the agricultural field. At the end, I want to promote our real and traditional cultures among people of our country because in the last couple of years our cultures have been infected and we need to recover and develop our cultures and the people's respect for our country.

Poem: "Teacher"

A teacher has the best name and title
A teacher has the highest dignity and respect
A teacher's teachings and sayings are the best.

Muneez
14 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province
Mustafa, living in an urban area in the Balkh province, said, "My imagination for the next ten years is as my parents tell me that I continue studying. They say, the results of my school’s last three years are very important and by having a good school degree, I could successfully apply for the Turkish scholarship program for continuing my higher education in Turkey and graduate there. They say, there are no jobs in Afghanistan for you unless you do not have a valuable higher degree. When you have it, you could get a job. After coming back from Turkey, I want to become a good doctor or an engineer. I am also a tailor’s apprentice in a tailor shop. My parents told me that besides having education and knowledge, having a profession is also necessary. In this country, even if we study and graduate, there are no jobs for us. Our neighbor who graduated from university even two years after his graduation he has been jobless and searching for a job. Finally, when he could not find a job, he bought a rickshaw and now he is using it to earn money. Here, a good school degree is necessary to earn money. There should be a profession besides education so one could earn money and feed their family."
In the name of almighty Allah, the most compassionate and the most merciful.

First of all, peace is very important for the long lasting of a country. We can study in a peaceful environment, go to school and do other things like that. Approximately 14 to 15 years ago, when there was no peace in Afghanistan, girls could not go to schools. If there is peace we can go to schools as well as do other things. If in the next 10 years there is peace, we can go to schools as well as do other things. If there is peace we can become a doctor. In the past 15 years, there was no peace in Afghanistan. Girls could not go to school, hence the education of most girls could not be pursued. girls could not go to school. If there is peace, more girls can be educated to become doctors. In a peacefull environment, 96 schools and 60 other things like them. In a peaceful environment, we can study.

The most important for the long lasting of a country, we can study.

We can study.

A green tree is a sign of peace.

Dried out tree is the sign of war.

Thank you so much.

the soldiers of my country; we are thankful to our soldiers for serving us day and night.

Hamid
14 years old, living in a rural area in the Balkh province.
Noor
16 years old, living in a rural area of the Balkh province

We want peace and security.

In the name of almighty Allah, the most compassionate and the most merciful.

My imaginations and wishes for the future

I am an Afghan. I have been living in this country since I was born and until now except fights and bloody events, I have not experienced anything else and my imaginations have always been to have a peaceful and developed country. Now as an active person in the society, I want to achieve peace and improvements in my society and country. My imaginations for my life in the next ten years are to have improvements, developments, peace, and security in the country and serve my country. Until now having peace has been the only wish of the people of my country and my only wish is that this wish of my nation comes true in the next ten years. Another wish of mine is that violence against women in all parts of the country should be eliminated and their rights should not be violated anymore.

We want peace and security.

There are hopes that all our imaginations and wishes come true.

The county should be elminated and there fights should be stopped and arm unable to cause all the fights and violence are due to discriminations and finally cause death and killing of each other in the county. Now there is no peace and security cause all the fights and violence are due to discriminations and finally cause.

We want peace and security.

For the next ten years I wish discriminations should be over in the country. We are a peaceful and calm nation and I believe that our governmental authorities should provide job opportunities for the youths, so our youths would not get addicted to drugs. Another wish that I have is that the children of the country should be safe and stop doing hard labors in the county so they could study and continue their education.

We want peace and security.

I wish all the girls in the country to have the same rights and opportunities as people of our country and community. We need to end the concept that people think it is against their pride if girls go to school in many parts of the country. There are hopes that all our imaginations and wishes come true.
Naila
17 years old, living in a rural area in the Balkh province.

This is a flower which is blossoming and needs water and

Our country needs peace and is thirsty for peace and freedom. Our country needs peace and is thirsty for peace and freedom.

I imagine that in the next ten years our country will head towards good security and peace and we could independently continue our education in the future. Our imaginations for the life are unlimited and one of them is that we will get rid of the fights and looting. All of our people should live with comfort and this would be our wish in the whole life. We hope that one day the ministries come true. I wish to become a successful doctor in the future and serve my country honestly because our people have tolerated a lot of pain and we want to eliminate this suffering. I wish to become a successful doctor in the future and serve my country honestly because our people have tolerated a lot of pain and we want to eliminate this suffering and our country needs peace and freedom.

We hope that one day the ministries come true. I wish to become a successful doctor in the future and serve my country honestly because our people have tolerated a lot of pain and we want to eliminate this suffering and our country needs peace and freedom.
Aisha
15 years old, living in an urban area in the Balkh province

My ambitions are to build Afghanistan and see the architectures that I will create.

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful.

With the current situation we have in Afghanistan, I am 90% sure that I am close to my ambitions. With the help of my God and family, I want to study mathematics and learn all the knowledge that is related to mathematics until I am graduated from school. Now I am in the 10th class. And I am sure that I will be successful. I will work hard for the next three years and after graduating from school, I want to graduate from the university. I can find a job in a company because I can speak three languages. I will work hard for the next five years. I will work hard, and I will be successful. I will work hard for the next three years and after graduating from school, I want to graduate from the university. I can find a job in a company because I can speak three languages. I will work hard for the next five years. I will work hard, and I will be successful.

In the current situation we have in Afghanistan, I am 90% sure that I can

In the name of Allah.
This word cloud was generated in the process of coding and analyzing the essays. It impressively represents the most important topics according to the youth when thinking about their current life and future hopes and aspirations.