

SHAHLA GARAYEVA  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

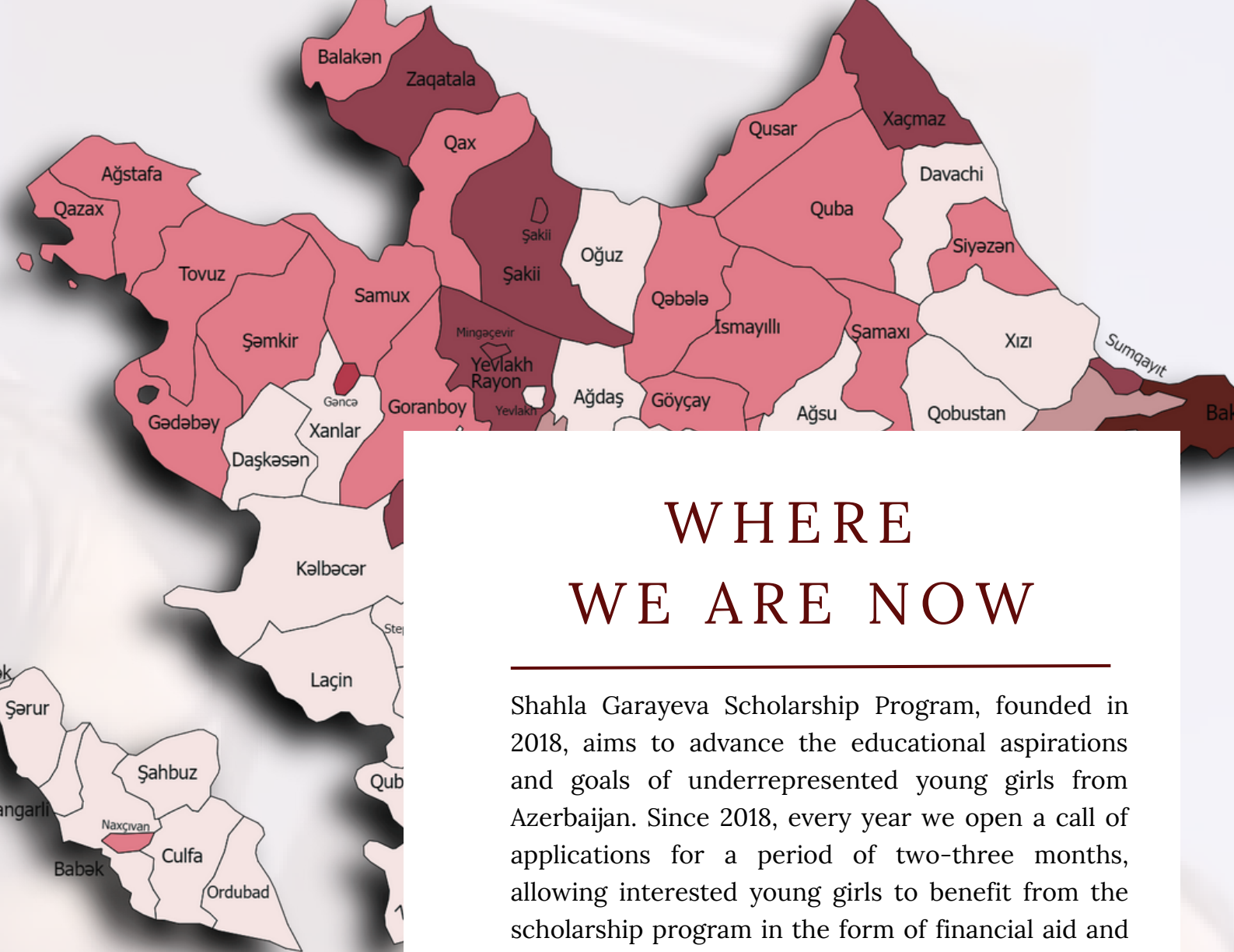
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ANNUAL  
REPORT

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2022

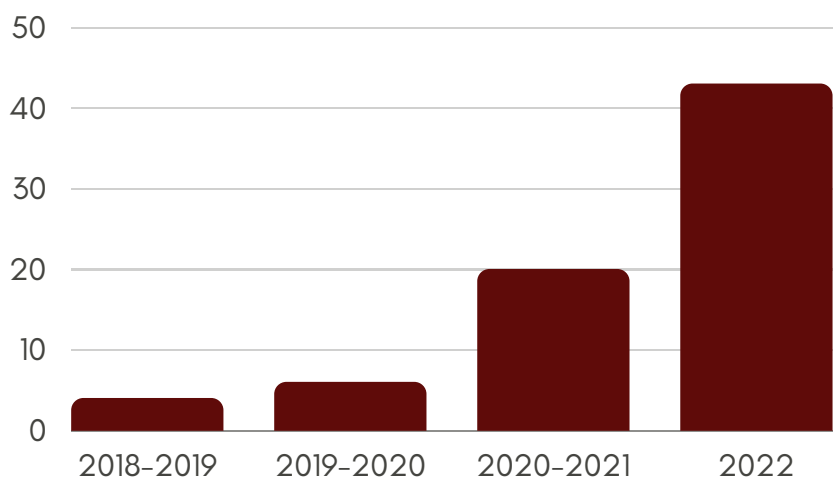




## WHERE WE ARE NOW

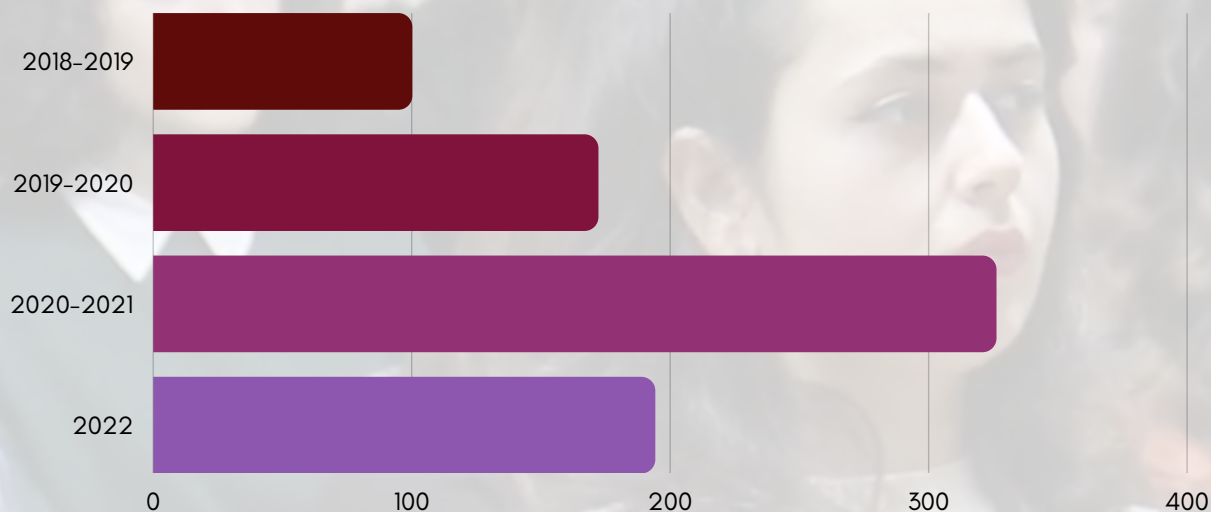
Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program, founded in 2018, aims to advance the educational aspirations and goals of underrepresented young girls from Azerbaijan. Since 2018, every year we open a call of applications for a period of two-three months, allowing interested young girls to benefit from the scholarship program in the form of financial aid and the mentorship program.

Since the establishment of the SGSP, we have seen a steady increase in the number of scholarships awarded each year. Starting with 4 scholarships in 2018/2019, we have been able to raise the number to 6 in 2019/2020 and 20 in 2020/2021. However, this year, we have reached a new milestone by awarding a total of **43 scholarships**, the highest number we have given since the inception of SGSP.



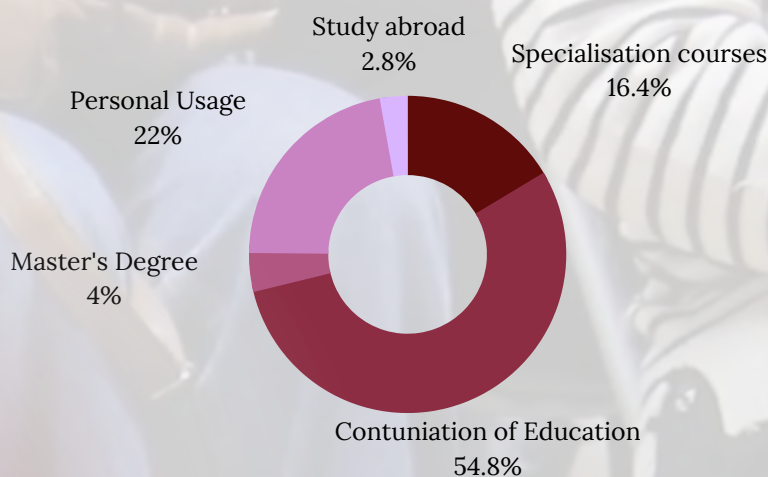
43 SCHOLARSHIPS

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2022



was open for a two-month period of time. During this period, we received 194 applications in total, whereas 16 applicants (male candidates, not completed application forms) were disqualified at the very first stage of the selection process (one of the eligibility requirements to apply to SGSP is to be a young girl from Azerbaijan).

In total, we have reviewed 178 application.



The applicants' purpose in applying for the scholarship program varied based on the demonstrated need. As shown in the chart below, most of the applicants intended to use the scholarship funds to further continue their studies or for various personal expenses.

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# SELECTION PROCESS

## 2022

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The selection process of the scholarship recipients took place in three stages: **1) Initial review; 2) External review; 3) Interview.** Each stage of the selection process is described below.

### **Initial review**

During this stage, the SGSP project team reviewed the **178 applications** by assigning them to three categories: highest need, moderate need, and lowest need. The criteria used for determining the level of need was based on an applicant's social and economic indicators as demonstrated in the application. After the initial review of all applications, the SGSP project team identified **119 applicants** who advanced to the second stage.

### **External review**

Three of the SGSP supporters and members of the Partner organisations indicated a commitment to help with the selection of the scholarship recipients. At this stage, they were asked to read through applicants' anonymized short answer essays and identify applicants who demonstrate *a) the highest need and b) the highest motivation - sense of purpose.* As a result of the external review, the SGSP project team determined **79 finalists** who made it through to the final stage.

### **Interview**

At this stage, the SGSP project team scheduled a phone or Zoom interview with each finalist to get to know them better and ask questions that were not on the application form. As SGSP is a needs-based scholarship, the project team aimed to probe finalists further on how the scholarship fund is relevant to their needs. Upon careful deliberation, **35 scholarship recipients** were selected at the end of a six-day interview process and **8 more scholarship recipients** were chosen by a partner organisation - Red Heart Fund, **totaling the number of scholarship recipients of 2022 to 43.**

**If you would like to get to know our scholarship recipients, go to our website  
(<https://sgsp.info/en/the-sgsp-awardees/>)**

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# THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

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The Mentorship program within SGSP was established with the aim to support the early career and personal development of female awardees. According to the overall mentee feedback, the mentors' individual approach is a great advantage of the SGSP program. The response from mentees underlines that ***the continuous exchange with their mentors had a positive impact on determining their own position and on setting priorities for the near future.***

The mentorship program was designed to be flexible in order to adapt to the awardee routine duties and family responsibilities to facilitate participation as much as possible. Moreover, the mentorship program helps to boost ***the networks of women and gives the opportunity to connect on basis of common interests within the community.***

***If you would like to get to know our mentors, go to our website  
([www.sgsp.info](http://www.sgsp.info))***

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# PARTNERSHIPS

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This year we partnered with the Azerbaijan Cultural Society of Northern California, For Azerbaijan Fund, and Red Hearts Foundation, to increase the impact of our work. All three non-profits provided us with organisational and fundraising support helping us raise a higher amount of funds for scholarships and implement better programming for our recipients. We would like to express our gratitude to our partners for their time and efforts in making 2022 the most successful year to date! Read more about our partners below.

**Azerbaijan Cultural Society of Northern California**

**For Azerbaijan Fund**

**Red Hearts Foundation**

**Baku Community Space**

Despite the fact that the SGSP has been operating since 2018, the entire selection process, as well as the crowdfunding campaign, has been always conducted entirely online. Four years later, **on October 3, 2021**, for the first time, we were finally able to arrange a meeting with the awardees of all years.

This year, we again managed to hold a meeting with our awardees and partner organisations on **December 17, 2022**. The purpose of the meeting was for the girls to get to know us, communicate and exchange with other fellow awardees, and also to inform them about new opportunities. Representatives of all three partner organisations - ACSNC, For Azerbaijan, and Red Hearts, and members of the Baku Community Space Team, who helped us organise this meeting, also participated in the meeting.

We believe that as the awardees get to know each other and learn and benefit from the experience of others, taking into account the other tools (mentorship, training) offered by the program, we can build **a strong community in Azerbaijan that supports education, especially girls' education.**

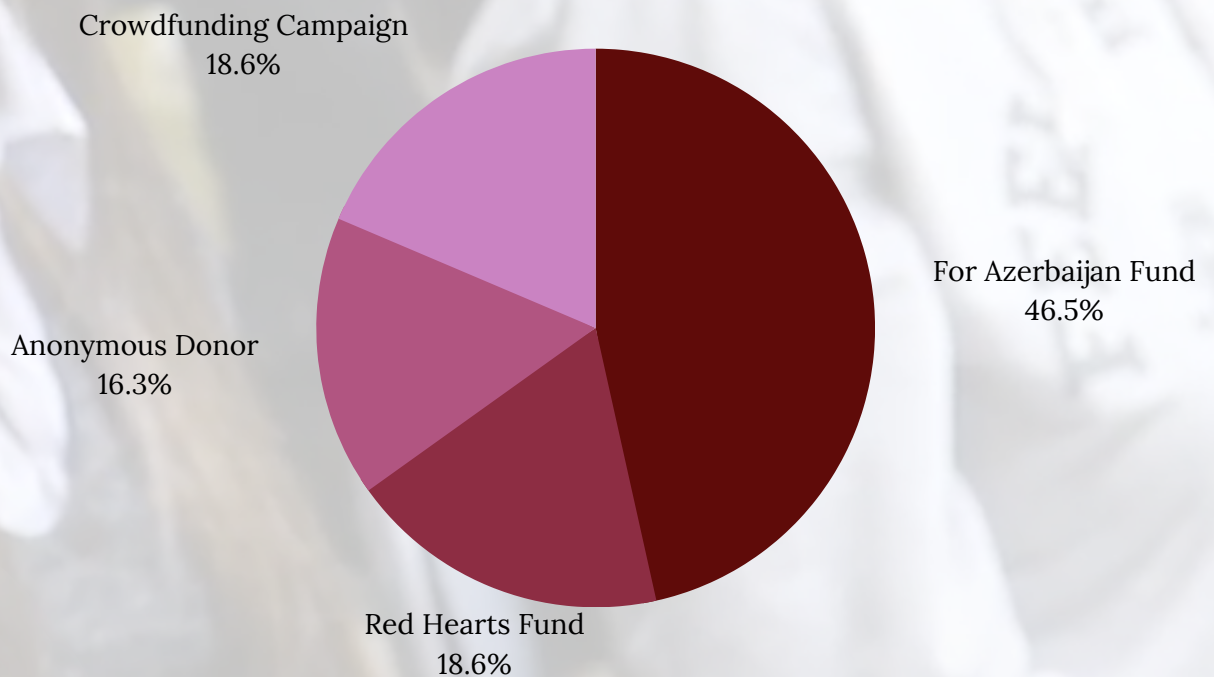


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# CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

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The SGSP Crowdfunding Campaign 2022 was successful in raising a total of **\$ 5136** to support the studies of young girls from Azerbaijan. Thanks to the collaboration with **ACSNC (Azerbaijan Cultural Society Northern California)**, we received a total of **76 donations** during the Crowdfunding Campaign, allowing us to give **8 scholarships**. Fruitful collaborations have continued throughout the year: thanks to the Crowdfunding Campaign held by **For Azerbaijan Fund, Red Hearts Foundation, and Anonymous Donor's support**, we were able to provide **35 additional scholarships**. The chart below indicates the distribution of donations by the campaigns and partnerships held.





# FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

## Budget 2022 (USA Dollars)

### Revenue

Crowdfunding Campaign Donations - (Facebook)	\$	2,219.00
Crowdfunding Campaign Donations (Website)	\$	2,927.77
Donation in cash	\$	7,512.72
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,659.49</b>

### Expenses

Administrative Expenses	\$	839.50
Program Expenses	\$	10,795.49

**Total Expenses** **\$ 11,634.99**

**Net Surplus (Deficit)\* 2022** **\$ 1,024.50**

Administrative expenses/Total Revenue 7%

Program Expenses/Total Revenue 85%

Net Surplus 2022/Total Revenue 8%

**\*Revenue and expenses are calculated till December 30, 2022**



*All this would be impossible without Your support!*

*Thank you!*

