



Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR)

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ACBAR Hosts Donor Workshop for NGO Coordinating Bodies and Civil Society

The workshop provided a forum for donors to present their funding opportunities for 2016 and engage with NGOs and civil society representatives.

On the 17th December 2015, ACBAR and the EU hosted a donor workshop for ACBAR and fellow coordination bodies (ANCB, ASCF, AWN and SWABAC). The workshop provided a forum for donors to present their funding opportunities and engage with NGOs and civil society representatives. The workshop was divided into two sessions: the first session included a presentation by ACBAR and other Coordination Bodies, followed by presentations by different donors that support Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and questions and answers. The second session consisted of a presentation by the Civil Society Joint Working Group (CSJWG) on its activities and the Mutual Cooperation Mechanism (MCM) agreement signed between the government and CSJWG. This was followed by a panel discussion with CSJWG members and a representative from the President's Office.

During a welcome and introduction by the Head of Cooperation of European Union (EU), Maurizio Cian stated the EU remains a strong supporter of civil society and a substantial part of their cooperation is implemented by NGOs/CSOs. The EU will be hosting the next Ministerial Conference in Brussels 4-5th October 2016. The Brussels Ministerial Conference will be the point at which the international community pledges support to Afghanistan beyond 2016. Civil society will play an important role towards the preparation of the conference.

The NGO coordinating bodies discussed current issues which affect NGOs and CSOs. As Afghanistan experiences a decline in international aid and as more donor funds are channeled through the government as "on budget" donations, there is less direct funding to NGOs/CSOs and thus to greater competition for declining resources. NGO/CSOs need

to align themselves more with the Government, which is sometimes problematic.

Sometimes NGO/CSOs are expected to deliver projects without much consultation and there is less inclusion of NGOs/CSOs in providing ideas and planning new government initiatives. In this context NGOs/CSOs may need to redefine their roles. NGO Coordination Bodies have a special responsibility to represent the wider group. They also want to show examples of best practice to government and donors.

Presentations were then provided by the EU, DFID, Dutch Embassy, Canadian Embassy and German Embassy. In 2015, the EU has 67 grants managed by NGOs/CSOs, for a total amount of EUR 100 million managed in different areas of cooperation in Afghanistan. 80% of grants are managed by INGOs, while 19% by Afghan NGOs, although the figure is different if co-applicants are considered. Incentives are being introduced to see more funding going to Afghan NGOs. As of July this year the EU will move to online application system called Prospect. This will minimize human mistakes in application, as the system will not permit them and will block the application.

DFID provided information on UK support to civil society in Afghanistan. This includes Tawanmandi (2011-2017, £33.78m, UK contribution £19.96m), Humanitarian Program (2014-2018, £80m), Girls Education Challenge Fund (2013-2017, £49.5m), Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), Women's Rights Programming, Human Rights Democracy Fund (Calls for proposals will be out this year) When discussing lessons for future support for civil society, DFID highlighted the need for CSOs to strengthen their organizational capacity and better and co-

ordination within sectors for wider impact/advocacy.

The Dutch Embassy in Kabul has two sources of funding for civil society actors and NGOs. One is provided directly by the Ministry in the Hague (central funding-) e.g. Reconstruction Program, FLOW and Addressing Root Causes Fund, and the other is provided and managed by the Dutch Embassy in Kabul. Current focus areas have been narrowed down in 2014 to the field of security and the rule of law, with special attention for women's rights and gender.

Funding mechanisms for CSOs from the Canadian Embassy in Kabul includes Funding for International Development Projects – Global Affairs Canada, partnering with a Canadian organization through an unsolicited proposals mechanism, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), Diploma in Development Leadership, Equitas and an annual International Human Rights Training Program. In addition funding is available for advocacy in the fields of health and the empowerment of women and girls.

The German Embassy in Kabul has two government institutions that provide funding for projects – one is the Ministry for Development and Cooperation and the other is the Federal Foreign Office. Funding opportunities include NGO funding from German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, Foreign Office Funds and Small Grants Fund of the German Embassy.

The Civil Society Joint working Group (CSJWG) provided a presentation on their new organizational structure, the signing of the Code of Conduct of the Mutual Cooperation Mechanism between government and CSJWG and their plans for monitoring the government and international community commitments under the SMAF.

For the full report please visit:

<http://www.acbar.org/files/downloads/Donors%20Workshop%20Report%2017th%20Dec%202015%20FINAL..pdf>

Da Pulay Poray has won a big place in the hearts of Afghans: you too can play your part in supporting it

ACBAR is sponsoring radio drama storylines covering the work of humanitarian organisations in order to promote understanding of humanitarian principles and the role of NGOs and the duty of the government to see humanitarian organisations as a source of assistance for needy sections of Afghan society as opposed to a source of corruption. These scenes will be broadcast in Kandahar and Jalalabad through PACT radio and other radio broadcasters in Afghanistan with whom PACT has agreements.

Da Pulay Poray means Across the Border and deals with the lives of Afghans living on the border of Pakistan in a radio soap opera. Da Pulay Poray is broadcast in Pashto on Arakozia Radio, the Pashto broadcasting arm of the Moby Media Group. It is produced by PACT Radio. Previously, the soap opera was produced in Peshawar. It has now been one year that it has been repatriated to Afghanistan, and found a home with Arakozia Radio.

In the two years that Da Pulay Poray has been on air at Arakozia Radio, it has built up a considerable audience in the East and South of Afghanistan. Not only is it being listened to, it is playing a constructive role for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. This was shown in audience research carried out by PACT in December 2014. The research found that of those who listen to Arakozia Radio, 96 per cent of women and 87 per cent of men said they were tuning into Da Pulay Poray radio drama, making it the most popular programme on Arakozia Radio. Listeners were asked why they like Da Pulay Poray. While many (33 per cent of men and 12 per cent of women) said they liked it for its educational content, even more (20 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women) said they liked it because it was a reflection of real life.

Da Pulay Poray covers a lot of issues: disaster preparedness and relief; the plight of widows; the struggle for rights; conflict and conflict resolution; humanitarian relief and humanitarian access and grassroots democracy. Which storylines had particularly stuck in listeners' memory? When asked this

question, there was just about equal support for three of the main storylines of the radio soap opera: when a flood descended on Kandao village, the fictional village in which Da Pulay Poray is set (26 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women); the marriage of the young widow Kashmala to a school teacher, Kashmala having previously escaped from her in-laws, who were forcing her into marriage with the brother of her deceased husband (26 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women); and the choice of most respondents (32 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women) who said that the storyline that resonated with them most was when one returnee refugee, Mewa Gul, stood up for his rights, his land having been appropriated by the local malik or headman while he was a refugee across the border. One listener praised Mewa Gul because he was a mubariza kawunkay (struggler for his own and others' rights).

Any good story has a moral and a radio drama, which is a collection of storylines, is no different: it contains educational messages. When respondents were asked which education message of Da Pulay Poray had for them been most powerful and memorable, the one most opted for (31 per cent of men and a colossal 57 per cent of women) was widows' right to remarriage, according to her own choice. Incidentally, there was also relatively high support for two other educational messages: the humanitarian principles are laudable in themselves – 26 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women – and an organized community is in a better position to receive needed

humanitarian assistance – 32 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women.



Rehearsal for Da Pulay Poray, which is recorded in PACT studios in Jalalabad, in eastern Afghanistan

Da Pulay Poray is a powerful medium for communication with people in the outlying areas of the east and south of Afghanistan. These are some of the areas that are most difficult to access for humanitarian agencies. Da Pulay Poray is continuing to communicate messages regarding the humanitarian principles, and how important it is for humanitarian agencies to be seen to be implementing the humanitarian principles, in order to contribute to better humanitarian access. Da Pulay Poray is also trying to address scruples some people have in the east and south of Afghanistan in accepting the polio vaccine. It is addressing important family issues, like women's inheritance and the usefulness of having a marriage certificate. These are just some of the issues that are being woven into the storylines of Da Pulay Poray.

For more information please contact PACT at jmbutt@pactradio.org.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FROM ACBAR MEMBERS



International Rescue Committee: (IRC) - 2015 Afghanistan Fact Sheet

The IRC has been supporting the Afghan people in their fight against displacement and poverty for the last three decades. During the Soviet occupation of 1980-1989, the IRC operated out of Pakistan assisting large numbers of refugees. Then in 1998, the IRC officially began operations inside Afghanistan through a wide range of humanitarian and development programming to assist people affected by conflict, natural disaster, and poverty, including displaced people and returnees. The IRC is currently operational in nine provinces. The IRC has 664 staff of which 99 percent are Afghan nationals.

The Context:

The primary drivers of human suffering in Afghanistan are the effect of escalating insurgencies, tribal disputes over natural resources, shelling at border areas, repeated cycles of natural disasters, lack of basic services, financial mismanagement and absence of adequate basic human rights protection mechanisms. Despite significant international aid, Afghanistan remains one of the least developed countries in the world, with a Human Development Index of 169 out of 187. More than a third of Afghans live below the poverty line, with high rates of unemployment and a population that is one of the youngest in the world, with 46.6 per cent under 14 years old. In addition to an internally displaced population of 700,000 people, Afghanistan also has the largest population of refugee returnees in the world—5.7 million people— with many more to come from neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

2014 witnessed major changes due to the political and military transitions, including a newly elected government (2015 – 2019), which has inherited a state that is running out of financial resources and losing ground to a rising insurgency in the provinces. These transitions are likely to bring a new environment for Afghans as well as challenges to the Government to bring stability, peace and economic growth.

IRC Programs in Afghanistan

Humanitarian Program:

The program support communities affected by conflict or natural disasters. Since July 2010, the IRC assisted more than 30,593 families (or approximately 214,706 beneficiaries) in eight provinces through provision of shelter, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

During 2014, in Khost province, the IRC provided emergency relief to 4,800 Pakistani refugee families (approximately 40,716 individuals) who fled their country during the military operation carried out by the Pakistan military in the North Waziristan Agency. Additionally, by 2015, the IRC supported more than 14,128 extremely food insecure households with provision of food vouchers which enabled them to get access to an adequate level of food commodities. By the end of 2015, the IRC helped 3,350 households across five provinces with access to potable drinking water following cholera outbreaks.

Community Driven Reconstruction:

The IRC works in partnership with approximately 3,700 communities across Afghanistan as they identify, plan, and manage their own development projects. These include roads, culverts, schools, community meetings halls, irrigation, water supplies, mini-hydro power projects, literacy, and vocational training programs. These activities are part of the Afghan-owned National Solidarity Program (NSP), funded by the World Bank, of which IRC is a Facilitating Partner to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. Since 2003, IRC helped establish 3,700 locally elected Community Development Councils that have led nearly 5,500 projects reaching 4.8 million people with a total budget of US\$ 139 million. While issues related to security and community accountability have occasionally affected smooth implementation, overall the program is an important success in terms of community ownership and rural development.

Education:

As a follow-up of the PACE-A project that provided education to 72,198 girls from 2006 to 2011, in March 2012, the IRC began implementation of the Basic Education for Afghanistan Consortium (BEACON), comprising 4 implementing partners of which the IRC is the lead. BEACON provides community based education (CBE) to 12 provinces to children, especially girls, living in remote areas far away from formal public schools, who wouldn't have access to an education otherwise. The IRC is implementing several other CBE projects in different parts of the country, among which Helmand, Paktya, Laghman and Nangarhar, reaching a total of 7,130 students of which 64% are girls. The CBE program have proven to be a success and a way to bring education to children and young people from remote communities that would not have any educational opportunity otherwise.

Challenges:

Afghanistan is one of the most difficult countries in which to reach people in need. Ongoing fighting between the government and armed opposition groups and poor infrastructure makes it very difficult and sometimes impossible to reach vulnerable communities. To mitigate these factors, the IRC works closely with communities, operates rigorous remote management processes to ensure reaching as many people as possible as safely as possible. The IRC is one of only a few agencies operating in Badghis and Helmand provinces as well as in some high insecure districts in other provinces in the country.

200 farmers each received 50 Kg high yield wheat seeds, 50 Kg DAP and 50 Kg UREA in late October 2015 in Behsud, Khewa and Kama Districts of Nanagarhar Province under the Eurpeaid funded Project. The wheat seeds were tested by MAIL and were purchased from the MAIL certified suppliers.

Islamic Relief (IR)

Islamic Relief (IR) is an international relief and development charity which envisages a caring world where people unite to respond to the suffering of others, empowering them to fulfil their potential. We are an independent Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) founded in the UK in 1984



Islamic Relief Afghanistan (IRA) initiated its Afghanistan assistance in different fields such as sustainable livelihood, child welfare, women development, disaster risk reduction, emergency Response, livelihood, agriculture, health, nutrition, education, rehabilitation, irrigation and social welfare as well responding to the emergencies.

Activities in 2015 included:

Emergency Response

Islamic Relief Afghanistan has been involved in responding the various emergencies ranging from flash floods, emergency winter assistance and earthquake during the year 2015. And to date IR Afghanistan has been able to support 4,618 families or 32,326 individuals with required food and non-food items. The standard packages are designed in close coordination and communication with all involved donor and partner agencies on the ground. Moreover; IR Afghanistan has been one of the strong partners in emergency response and coordination cluster in Afghanistan.

Health

Health component has been one of the core area of intervention for IR Afghanistan, and under this component IR has completed SEHAT (supporting education through health assistance and treatment) for 12,000 orphan's family members and their siblings. Also IR Afghanistan provided opportunity to HIV positive patients in Mazar through HIV and addiction prevention and support program. In addition to that basic health services have been one of the most successful programs in Shotepa district of Balk province. Through this program IR has provided basic health services to around 5,000 individuals.

Seasonal Programs

Islamic Relief Afghanistan implement seasonal programs as its organization mandate each year. During these programs (Ramadan and Quarbani) poor and vulnerable families are targeted in all those provinces where IR This year IR Afghanistan was able to provide food packages to 4682 families or 32774 individuals during the holy month of Ramadan. Moreover; IR Afghanistan distributed fresh meat of 3kg to 8233 families during the Eidul Adha to families who didn't have enough resources to perform Qurbani on the EID days.

Developmental programs

Home Based Education project for women, intervention delivers 9 months of home based education on Literacy, numeracy as well as health education and micro-business information to the deprived uneducated women in Waras district of Bamyán province.

IR Afghanistan has been able to provide literacy courses to around 1800

women in Waras district. IR Afghanistan has also constructed shelters for 21 vulnerable families living in the caves around the Budha sculpture in Bamyán and extended water supply network for those beneficiary families in Bamyán. In Badakhshan province, Argu district, 19 landslide affected families were supported with construction and provision of shelter.

KOR (Kabul Orphanages Rehabilitation)

This project support Orphans in Government registered orphanages. Through this project Islamic relief Afghanistan supported 780 orphans in providing quality Education, Health services, Recreation activities, Vocational training and provision of play tools for younger kids with no guardians. KOR initiatives are being implemented Tahia Maskan and Alauddin orphanages in Kabul province.

OTO One to One Sponsorship Program

Islamic Relief started its orphan sponsorship programme to support orphan families most in need; Islamic Relief Worldwide facilitates this initiatives for thousands of orphans globally, linking individual donors around the world to orphan families in developing countries through a modern means of tracking such as Orphanage website (Alyateem). In Afghanistan currently 2370 Orphans are sponsored through this program in Kabul, Bamyán, and Nangarhar and Balkh provinces.