



Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR)

November 2015 Newsletter

Number 29

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ACBAR holds mid-term General Assembly

The General Assembly represents all the members of ACBAR and is the highest decision making body.

ACBAR's mid-term General Assembly was held on 22nd November 2015 in the conference room of Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU). The meeting was a quorum of 132 members (quorum = half the number of members +1) and permitted participants to review and discuss ACBAR's activities over the past six months as well as listening to a presentation on the findings and recommendations of a strategic review commissioned to study future priorities for ACBAR in 2017-2019. In addition 10 new NGO members were voted to become members of ACBAR by the General Assembly.

ACBAR's Chairman commenced the General Assembly with a synopsis of the last 9 months of 2015. During 2015 a new government has slowly been put into place reflecting the tension between the roles of the two political leaders – the President, Ashraf Ghani and the CEO, Dr Abdullah. There have been delays and changes in appointments of Ministers and senior Ministry staff which have slowed down work on different national and provincial levels. To add to this complicated working environment, security had deteriorated during the year and access has become increasingly difficult in many parts of the country. International funding for Afghanistan is reducing with the departure of the bulk of NATO forces. At the SOM conference in Kabul in September the government had advocated successfully for 50% of donor funds to be channeled through the national budget rather than 'off budget'.

Over this period ACBAR has continued to provide a platform for NGOs to network with government, UN and civil society through the organization of regular monthly meetings with

different stakeholders and the dissemination of information.

It has increased its capacity building activities with the addition of a new programme for twinning national NGOs with international NGOs in the humanitarian sector. A new regional manager for Herat was also appointed in September to increase support to ACBAR members in the Western region. ACBAR's relations with Government line ministries focused on the needs and requirements of the members. Therefore, ACBAR held meetings with the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of finance (MTO), the Ministry of Interior, the ministry of foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, The Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. ACBAR pushed for MoUs between line ministries and NGOs to be signed in a timely manner for NGO projects and had numerous discussions with the MTO regarding tax issues for NGOs. With regards to relations with the United Nations, ACBAR has represented the NGO community in various meetings. For example, ACBAR is an observer in UNOCHA HCT and CHF Advisory Board meetings. In terms of advocacy, ACBAR holds monthly Advocacy Working Group Meetings (AWG) at which members can come together to discuss joint advocacy initiatives including advocacy papers, campaigns and conferences. ACBAR's advocacy has focused on the Tokyo Process and TMAF including advocacy around the Senior Officials Meeting in September. ACBAR has also been involved in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit by holding workshops, conducting surveys with communities in the

provinces and producing a position paper for the WHS.

During the General Assembly ACBAR's 9 month financial report was presented by ACBAR's treasurer. Overall, 9 months of 2015 went without any financial problems. During this period 92% of ACBAR budget have been covered by Donors (Tawanamndi - 30%, DFID - 48% and Peace Winds Japan - 14%) The remaining 8% is covered by ACBAR's own budget.

ACBAR is funded by Peace Winds Japan "PWJ" to build the capacity and provide support to Afghan civil society organizations. Tawanmandi funds ACBAR to strengthen the role of CSOs, to serve and facilitate the work of ACBAR members, to advocate for them and to promote high standard among the NGO community. DFID funds ACBAR to capacity build national NGOs to see humanitarian action strengthened and to enable more local NGOs to obtain polled funding sources.

ACBAR's director and Mr Fazal Rabi Haqbeen, Steering Committee member, presented the finding of ACBAR's strategic review. This review will be used to develop the new SP (2017–2019). The overall future aim is to have a stronger, more visible, more proactive and more innovative ACBAR.

The General Assembly voted for 4 new Steering Committee members and approved 10 new members. The new Steering Committee members are directors from MDC, RI, Actionaid and NAC.

New member NGOs are: AADRO, AHEAD, ANHDO, AOAD, FRDO, HAPA, HAWO, OSID, ORD, and SADA.

This brings ACBAR's total membership to 142 organisations, 72 of which are international and 70 of which are national

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ACBAR JOINS RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY IN KUNDUZ PROVINCE

ACBAR's Director visited Kunduz to observe first-hand the work of the rapid assessment survey which was led by IOM. ACBAR would like to extend grateful thanks to colleagues at DRC for providing the opportunity to accompany their team.

The Rapid Assessment survey took place from 1st -4th November 2015 in 26 key points in Kunduz city identified beforehand. 13 teams of 4 members (including one woman member) were deployed to carry out the survey. Team members consisted of NGO staff (volunteered by their organizations), members of UN staff from other provinces and local government. Before the survey started IOM had had discussions with the Governor and local authorities to explain the objectives of the survey and to ensure government support and co-ordination. Some NGOs had already started to identify recipients of assistance but they were asked to wait until the joint assessment was completed.

The training and daily debriefing of the teams was held at Save the Children's office in Kunduz. Team members visited local elders and street representatives,

wakile-goza), in the focal areas (mosques) to prepare the interviews which were held with separate men and women's groups. IOM's analysis from data collected in the survey will be available shortly, but main points observed from meetings with women's groups include the following:

General psychological anxiety amongst women and children as a result of the panic evacuation of Kunduz and escaping fighting in the streets and check points outside the city. Even though they have come back to Kunduz, women remain fearful about going out, letting their children go to school, and during the night say the children are especially frightened and crying.

Lack of confidence in the police, arbaki and local authorities to protect them contributes to their anxiety.

People had spent a lot of money

or borrowed money to pay very high transport rates out of the city to other provinces. Now they are back they are worried about how to pay rent and fuel for the winter, especially poorer families in rented houses, "no money left in the house".

Lack of employment is also a major concern for all women – if the men in their families do not have jobs this will contribute to their financial difficulties. Some families said they had already sent their sons away to other countries so this had also increased their debts.

Health issues were also found to be a major concern. There had been no medical facilities or pharmacies open in Kunduz during the fighting so sick people had to be taken to neighboring provinces. There were cases of pregnant women losing their children because they

of the stress of the flight from the city. Apart from psychological

trauma children seen had scabies and respiratory problems.

In conclusion the rapid assessment had been carried out late but was a useful base to identify specific vulnerable groups in different parts of the city for NGOs who have emergency assistance funds. Promotion of livelihoods programmes and temporary employment programmes would help restore morale in the population and give much needed work.

Coordination is important between local government, UN and NGO stakeholders to ensure that aid is carried out to those most in need and to avoid duplication. ACBAR should provide support to NGO members with offices in Kunduz by appointing an ACBAR coordination focal point (regional manager) for an initial period of 6 months to support information sharing and coordination.

ACBAR PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN

Building on ACBAR's meeting on Afghan refugees, hosted in Kabul in August 2014, NRC/ICRI facilitated a Regional Meeting to help pool the collective resources and experiences of NGOs working on operational responses to Afghan refugees and returnees across the region.

This meeting was an important opportunity to share program and information updates, as well as determine appropriate joint program approaches in relation to the hosting environments in Pakistan and Iran as well as opportunities and challenges related to the return, repatriation and reintegration processes in 2014 and beyond. Central to this NGO meeting is the facilitation of program exchange between NGOs, UNHCR, donors and host governments in Pakistan and Iran, as well as the Afghan government. It is intended to invite a small number of NGOs through the PHF and ACBAR networks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, respectively. In Iran, ICRI will help facilitated participation

of international and national NGOs operating there.

The meeting was enabling NGOs across the region to explore and discuss updates with regards to: Context: PoR card renewal in Pakistan, Amayesh renewal scheme and Comprehensive Registration Plan in Iran, voluntary return and reintegration data etc.

Policy: NGO engagement in SSAR implementation plans; overviews of relevant national policy developments relevant in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran impacting youth programming.

Gaps in response: assessment of funding portfolios, donor priorities and NGO regional coverage

Program responses: with a focus on youth, livelihoods

and training, looking at returnees and pre-return preparedness. NGO case studies would comprise key learning tools for all participants.

Primary outputs of this workshop include:

Joint Program Planning: Increased regional understanding amongst NGOs of successful programme outcomes for Afghan youth populations.

Information Sharing: Sharing of information amongst NGOs that leads to enhanced program coverage and improved operational planning.

Advocacy: Identification of key areas of programme support for displaced Afghan youth populations and proactive

engagement with relevant actors (government, UNHCR, donors etc.)



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FROM ACBAR MEMBERS

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

1. Advocacy and Awareness: ALSO conducted ten advocacy workshops (6 in various Ministries in Kabul and one 3 different departments in Herat) which raised knowledge of totally 302 persons (209 Male & 93 Female) high ranking government authorities based on UNCRPD and NDJ, with especial focus on Employment rights, health care and educational rights of person with disability. The Advocacy and Awareness conducted in the following Ministries.

- Ministry of women affairs targeted 33 persons (24 Female and 9 Male)
- Ministry of MoLSAMD targeted 30 persons (24 Male and 6 Female)
- Ministry of Economy targeted 29 persons (24 Male and 5 Female)
- Ministry of Urban Development and Housing targeted 29 persons (18 Male and Female11)
- Ministry of Education targeted 21 persons (19 Male and 2 Female)
- Ministry of Information and Culture targeted 23 persons (18 Male and 5 Female)
- Ministry of Islamic affairs targeted 28 persons (26 Male and 3 Female)

Via Advocacy and awareness workshops in seven ministries in Kabul know ledge of 193 person raised out of which 41 of them were female.

- Department of women affairs - Herat - targeted 35 persons (31 Female and 4 Male)
- Department of MoLSAMD - Herat - targeted 37 persons (35 Male and 2 Female)
- Department of Education - Herat - targeted 37 persons (31 Male and 6 Female)

2. Psychosocial Support (peer-to-peer support): Improve the self-reliance, self-confidence and livelihood of 102 women, men and children with disabilities including Land mine, ERW survivors who recently disabled and are in isolation in Kabul and 75 in Herat province in order reduce trauma and pave the way for full participation and inclusion to the society.

3. Educational Referral Program: Based on project target we refer 50 students in Kabul and 98 students with disabilities in Herat province to their regional and interested educational centers for studying English language and computer programs. Our regular monitoring and evaluation shows that their lessons going on smoothly and according to our project plan.

AFGHAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ADA)

Success Story - Ms. Shah Koko

Two thousand three hundred, two thousand four hundred and this will make it two thousand seven hundred. Latifa Jan, “Latifa Jan Oooo Latifa Jan come here”, we have collected the price of the sewing machine. We are going to bazar tomorrow to buy the sewing machine.

This was the cheerful voice of Miss Shah Koko who belongs to a poor fisher family and is living with her 9 children in Jalayer Khord village of Bangi District of Takhar Province. The income from fishing was hardly supporting the basic needs of the family; therefore, Shah Koko had to work in neighboring houses and farms to take care of the family expenses. She had interest in tailoring and had the basic knowledge of tailoring and was dreaming for a good sewing machine. But the poverty was always getting in the way to fulfill her dream.



It was late afternoon when the MAIL NHLP/ADA poultry project's trainers knocked on her door. They were looking for eligible individuals as beneficiaries for improved backyard poultry (IBPP) project that was supposed to be implemented in eight villages of Bangi district of Takhar province. The beneficiary selection criterion was fitting Miss Shah Koko and she was selected by the Afghan Development Association (ADA) poultry project's trainers as one of the project eligible beneficiaries. She received a 3 months preliminary poultry management, disease diagnoses, anti-mortem, postmortem, housing, medication, vaccination, hygiene and rearing training that was conducted by ADA trainers at her village.

Initially Ms. Shah Koko started constructing the coop for rearing pullets. The family members were enthusiastically busy in constructing the coop and finally they had a well-designed coop as per NHLP standard coop map. Shah Koko didn't wait long and the day come when she received 30 vaccinated golden color healthy pullets from ADA.

The beneficiaries were 3 months old vaccinated and were free of germs. In addition, she received 250 kg standard balance layer feed, 2 good quality PVC drinkers, 2 good quality PVC feeders, 9 sq. wire mesh, necessary medicines and vaccines from the poultry project.

The three months training to Shah Koko + the balanced feed for the poultry gave a good growth to the pullets and finally the pullets started laying eggs after a while. On average Miss Shah Koko is collecting 24 eggs per day. Some of the eggs are consumed by her family members while the surplus eggs are sold in the district bazar. Approximately 1,200 AFN per week was collected from the selling of eggs. “I was keenly waiting for the day to have money for a new sewing machine and finally I had enough saving to buy the sewing machine”. The tears in her eyes were a mixture of today joy and sad past.

In her free time, Miss Shah Koko is sewing the clothes of the neighbors/ villagers and has good income from

This source as well. The business minded Shah Koko says “I have planned to expand the poultry business and natural brooding practice for hatching the day old chicks. She added that “I have planned to save more money to purchase balance feed, necessary medicine and vaccine for pullet to get maximum production and earn more money”.

Do you want to liberate tens of Shah Koko from the shackles of poverty? Mrs. Shah Koko enquired, she then added, if yes, please expand such project to cover more and more villages and make people live by their own, have enough food for their children and provide them with education and lead their own business.

The pullets that were distributed to