



Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR)

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ACBAR hosts mini-workshop on education

A coordinated education response, bringing together all actors, is integral to ensuring all children and youth affected by crises in Afghanistan have access to education opportunities.

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Education is a fundamental human right for all people and is particularly critical for children and youth affected by conflict and disasters. On the 13th October 2015, ACBAR brought together those working in educational policy, programs and child rights to exchange ideas and explore options to link individual strategies and organizations with other initiatives for a coordinated response to improving education for Afghanistan's youth. Presentations were provided by the Tashabos Education Organization (TEO); Oxfam provided a presentation on their GREAT IDEA Project and CARE International provided a presentation on Challenges in Education .

TASHABOS program is an entrepreneurship high school curriculum which is based on proposal writing competitions among students in the high schools. Tashabos Education Organization (TEO) is a National NGO registered with MoEc in Aug 2010.

The aim of this program is to promote responsible citizenship and leadership, democratic governance and lessons in market economy and facilitating networking of the high school students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 with funding support from National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

TEO grew out of Center for International Private Enterprises (CIPE) project. Tashabos implements Entrepreneurship High School Curriculum in 43 schools in four provinces of Kabul, Parwan, Bamyan, and Nangarhar with the cooperation of MoEd, around 40,000 students are benefiting from this program.

The main objective is to instill in Afghan youth an awareness of the values of the entrepreneurship, market economics, and democracy.

The Great Idea project was launched by Oxfam in 2011- this is a distance learn program that makes use of modern mobile technology, for learning of secondary subjects such as Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology on a daily level. The curriculum is in line with MoEd. The Great Idea project consists of 4 key elements; 1- Master Trainers in Kabul teach interactive lessons in front of the camera which is recorded in TV studio and broadcast live via satellite to learners in Parwan region. 2 - Mobile helpline allows for interactive key conversation, questions and answers after each broadcast lessons so the teachers then answer the specific questions to the students. 3- An innovative competition element is integrated into each session and active participation is encouraged. 4- The teaching model is further reinforced by raising awareness about the importance of education within the community. This is done by community involvement with parents, teachers, mullahs and group conversation as well as radio broadcasting.

CARE informed participants of the General Education context in Afghanistan. Student enrollment has increased rapidly during the last decade. While only one million children (almost all boys) were enrolled in schools in 2001, over 9.1 million children were enrolled in 2013 of which 39% were girls. The MoEd estimates that gross enrollment ratio (GER) for all levels and all types of education were 69% (56% females and 82% male) in 2013.

This is based on UN Population Division estimate of Afghan population. In-security, poverty and working children, shortage and lack of schools in remote areas, long walking distance to schools, Low quality of education, shortage of female teachers in higher grades, cultural beliefs about girls' education in some areas, shortage and lack of necessary facilities in schools such as sanitation, drinking water and surrounding walls.

Education strategies from the MoED include the provision of the National Strategic Education Plan III, the plan to meet the SDG Education for All Goal and a Community-Based Education (CBE) Policy. Future plans include Developing an Interim and Fast Tracking Initiative (FTI) where each student's file can be tracked via a database within the MoEd,

To conclude the workshop, participants identified issues that NGO ACBAR members would like to address with: NGOs have MoU problems with MoEd meaning that projects are being delayed from 2 months to 2 years. ACBAR will arrange a meeting with the MoED to try and resolve these issues.

The Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 will take place on the 25-27 November 2015 in Bangkok. Representatives from UNESCO, MoED and ANAFSAE will be attending this meeting. I

ACBAR's Strategic Review 2016-2019

A Strategic Review (SR) is a selective evaluation of an organizational unit, policy, project or program performed at the request of senior management, and examines the organisation's rationale, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, financial viability, impact and sustainability. SR's are designed to assess strategy, performance, and areas for improvement.

The ACBAR current Strategic Plan (SP) covers the period 2013 - 2016. As it near the end of its strategic plan, ACBAR decided to conduct a Strategic Review (SR) in order to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and build a competitive advantage based on activities like coordination, advocacy, technical resources, and capacity building.

The purpose of the SR is to assist ACBAR in redefining its strategy as an agency for NGO representation and coordination according to the changing context of aid coordination within Afghanistan. The objectives are to assess the implementation of the former strategy, and identify the strategic priorities for ACBAR in order to assist in the development of a mid-term action plan for the coming three years.

Stakeholders regard ACBAR as a crucial and central NGO coordinating body in Afghanistan. This Strategic Review (SR) found that stakeholders value and appreciate ACBAR's role in supporting and strengthening NGO activities. A robust and effective ACBAR is seen as vital to the future of NGOs and their ability to respond to the many

The Consultant, from organisation Cape Blue Group, used a multi-faceted approach to obtain both primary and secondary data for the evaluation. 87 respondents contributed to this Strategic Review.

This approach utilized, desk review of relevant documents supplied by ACBAR; Semi-structured interviews with key and randomly selected stakeholders including: ACBAR members (national and international NGOs), government, donors, UN, other coordinating bodies, and ACBAR staff; Online questionnaires: one for all ACBAR members and another more detailed one for Steering Committee members and ACBAR staff; Focus groups: one for international NGOs, the other for national NGOs; Meeting attendance: Afghanistan Humanitarian Forum (AHF) (21 October 2015) and the Advocacy Working Group (AWG) (27 October 2015) meetings that took place at ACBAR; Debriefing and presentation of preliminary findings to the Steering Committee.

Respondents described ACBAR as a body that coordinates NGOs, government and donors. The majority of respondents stated that ACBAR plays an important role in supporting the work of NGOs working in Afghanistan.

The common future goal was to have a stronger, more visible, more proactive and more innovative ACBAR. ACBAR's financial viability is secured until 2019 after which time more core funding needs to be secured.

Stakeholders and members claimed that they want ACBAR to be more proactive, visible and stronger. They expect ACBAR to be the linkage between members, government, donors and other stakeholders. They see ACBAR as the chief coordinating NGO body in Afghanistan.

Regarding the current Strategic Plan (SP), 2013 – 2016, the findings highlight the fact that members and stakeholders are not familiar with the current SP and regard it as non-participative. Thus, there is very little buy-in and participation in the current SP.

The four current activities of coordination, advocacy, information sharing and capacity development are well appreciated and utilised. There are suggestions for all four activities, most notably for advocacy where stakeholders expressed the necessity for a needs assessment that outlined the key local advocacy priorities. Funding remains a challenge for long-term sustainability.

ACBAR is well positioned to move forward into the areas identified in this SR and build on its past successes, while responding to the current and future challenges.



ACBAR holds Afghanistan Development Forum with Ministry of Labor Social Affairs Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD)

ACBAR's Afghanistan Development Forum (ADF) is a monthly forum for NGOs and stakeholders to discuss development issues and challenges, including coordination with the government, to improve effective delivery

ACBAR's Afghanistan Development Forum (ADF) is a monthly forum for NGOs and stakeholders to discuss development issues and challenges, including coordination with the government, to improve effective delivery and quality of assistance to vulnerable populations. Each month, a different line ministry is invited to the meeting to present any new strategies or updates.

On 8th October 2015, Dr. Ahmad Shah Salihi, Deputy Minister and Dr. Pardis Sabir, General Director for Policy and planning of MoLSAMD attended ACBAR's ADF to discuss the current employment situation in Afghanistan. Employment is a very important part of life, and has become a serious challenge in Afghanistan.

Strategies are needed to reduce the unemployment level and to provide job opportunities to the people. MoLSAMD is working on 5 main points in its strategy;

1- Obtaining sufficient information about the labor market, availability of job opportunities, type and field of job opportunities, in order to provide job facilities specifically where needed. In some cases when there are some working facility we cannot find educated experts. So according to economic basics, the requirement and marketability should be identified and take into account according to the labor market.

2- Coordination is covering 50% of the MoLSAMD's activities. MoLSAMD has no employment opportunities itself but employment is available in other sectors through coordination: 60% of employments are in agriculture sector, then commerce and construction, then other sectors. Therefore MoLSAMD needs to keep close coordination with said sectors and has prepared a new mechanism to communicate the issues and speed up the coordination process for better entrepreneurship.

3- Skill and vocational trainings are in the mandate of MoLSAMD which still has been conducted by MoLSAMD and MoEd as a part of government activities, but now MoLSAMD wants to involve NGOs and private sectors in providing vocational trainings for capacity building of people, and refer them to micro-credit programs for improving creation of businesses and other facilities.

4- To send Afghan labour out of the country, a team of Afghan delegates will be going to Saudi Arab next week for an official discussion in order to provide employment for a large number of Afghan labourers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. The Qatar labour market is a big potentially and hopefully an agreement will be signed between Afghanistan and Qatar, the process is ongoing. Kuwait, UAE and Iran are also countries with good labour market potential for Afghans. Based on the discussions, Saudi Arabia has promised to accept 200,000 Afghan labourers. The identification of these individuals will be done by MoLSAMD employment centers which need more capacity; therefore MoLSAMD wants to implement the scheme through the public partnerships with NGOs or private sector organization. MoLSAMD is working on its guideline which is going to release soon.

5- The implementation of the Labour Law is the responsibility and authority of MoLSAMD and it should be implemented equally on everyone. NGOs, Private sector and the government are obedient to this law. MoLSAMD is responsible for all Afghan employees and has to care for their rights. There is a department for rights and legal inspection of employees, if any issue happens in the organizations which cannot be solved in the organization then it will be referred officially to MoLSAMD for legal consultation.

There are some points in the Labour Law to be amended and adjusted soon and MoLSAMD is working on its revision.

MoLSAMD encourages NGOs, private sector organizations and companies in economic development programs inside the country to employ Afghan labour. For example a shoe production company can create 30,000 job possibilities in Afghanistan for Afghan labourers, and the production will also be from Afghanistan.

One of issues which NGOs mostly facing is the retirement's privilege of their employees which to be implemented equally for all employees of the NGOs, private sectors and companies according to the Afghan labour law. MoLSAMD focuses on advocacy of all employees' rights and all employees, in short or long term employment, should know about their pensions.

"Based on census of Central Statistics Organization, during 2014 the number of unemployment reached to 40% of population and increasing day by day, caused by insecurity, political challenges and economic and political instability in the country

Activities and achievements from ACBAR Members

Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU)



The Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU), formerly the ACBAR Resource and Information Centre (ARIC), was established in Peshawar (Pakistan) in 1989. The Centre's overall goals are to facilitate research and enhance the culture of reading, through its ACKU's Box Library Extension (ABLE) outreach project. Hence, ACKU aims to contribute to on-going state building processes by providing access to knowledge.

ACKU is focused on three main thematic areas:

- Expanding the ACKU collections
- ACKU's Box Library Extension, (ABLE)
- Research and Communication (Outreach)

Expanding ACKU collections

ACKU library is the premier resource centre in and on Afghanistan. Currently ACKU has more than one hundred thousand documents in Dari, Pashto, English and some other European languages. The ACKU collections hold documents such as monographs, posters, newspapers, slides, CDs, fact sheets, music recordings, posters, newspapers, periodicals and magazines stretching back to decades. The newspaper collection includes the political history of many decades. The ACKU collections include work on archaeology, history, political and Afghan-foreign relations, etc.

Systematic Acquisition and digitizing of important library items are major activities of the ACKU library. ACKU also provides services to students, researchers, and other visitors, including free internet access in the ACKU reading and research rooms. This allows users to access to ACKU catalogue and digitized holdings. ACKU online resources can be accessed via the KoHA database (<http://acku-koha.osslabs.biz/>) and D-space (www.afghandata.org) and are available to users across the world.

The library has been digitizing its collections since 2007. Currently ACKU has more than thirty-thousand PDFs available online. This covers collections of photographs, maps, and broadsides from the War era, Afghanistan history, literature, cultural, agricultural, women and other historical resources.

ACKU carries out or hosts various activities, including Seminars and workshops that develop research skills and encourage the production and dissemination of knowledge on Afghanistan –

ACKU has showed great potential on the academic research support since 2014. ACKU's research support has extended especially to Kabul University students and faculty members from Social Sciences stream. In addition, this support has stretched to some private institutes inside Kabul. Meantime ACKU has reached to some other provinces to offer the same support in the future. Academic research courses, research methodology courses, helping faculty members and students in having a research article accepted for publication in an academic journal are the main research resources offered at ACKU. Both benefactor and beneficiary contribute for the success of this component of ACKU.

An outstanding photographic exhibition "Afghanistan- A distant war" by Robert Nickelsberg" held on September 2, 2015. Large number of students from Kabul University & private university, and a wider audience representing national and international organizations participated in this event. He photographed Afghanistan from 1988 to 2013 that fifty-two photographs from his collection were exhibited in this exhibition. This exhibition was a reminder of the past find a way towards a better future.

ACKU station inaugurated at the University of Bamyan: On October 14, 2015 ACKU corner officially opened with the co-operation of Group for the Environment Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES) at the Bamyan University. This helps students to access ACKU online resources. ACKU staffs were warmly welcomed by Bamyan University officials and students. Bamyan University officials, students and people expressed their appreciations for establishing a station of ACKU.

A success story from a beneficiary of ABLE library:

" I had little information of plantation. After reading the book "A guide to gardening in Afghanistan", I learnt how to do plantation effectively and how to do transplantation. Now I have become popular in my area for my profession as a gardener. People ask me to help them with their gardening and teach them transplant a tree. I am really happy with ABLE publications and request for ABLE to produce more publications in Agriculture subject" By Kola jan, who is seventy years old from Maidan Wardak:

Action Contrela Faim (ACF)

Present in Afghanistan for 20 years, ACF works towards improving the nutritional status of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women, through an integrated approach encompassing Nutrition, WASH, and Food Security and Livelihoods programming.

Monthly Achievements :

In the month of September, the ERM teams in Ghor and Helmand conducted respectively 5 rapid assessments, on a total of 194 households displaced by conflict in Ghor province (in Helmand, the assessment on 181 conflict IDPs was led by UNHCR and NC).

Identified as eligible to immediate assistance under the ERM project; 462 families (3,234 individuals) were supported with unconditional cash, including 181 households displaced by conflict in Lashkar Gah (Helmand), 269 families in Ghor, and 12 in Samangan. Amongst these families, 281 received hygiene kits, and 42 NFI kits within the month of September (in Helmand province, ACF only distributes cash, no hygiene or NFI kits).

Target versus Achievements up to date

Monthly Achievements:

In the month of September, the team completed 2 SQUEAC evaluations, in Nuristan (IMC) and Balkh (BDN), as well as 1 SMART survey in Kunar (PU-AMI).

The project was extended for one additional month to be utilized for the completion and release of all reports, as well as preparation of the final workshop, for dissemination of results and discussion around lessons-learned.



Monthly Achievements:

Activity	Target	Achieved to date	% Achieved
SMART Surveys with partners	8	8	100%
SQUEAC Evaluations with partners	10	9	90%
Rapid Nutrition Assessments with partners	6	3	50%

In the month of September, the Nutrition team delivered formal training on OPD and IPD-SAM to 15 and 12 health staffs respectively, covering 15 OPD-SAM and 5 IPD-SAM services in the province.

Results of pre and post tests indicate good assimilation of training topics by participants, who scored on average more than 50% higher at the post-test. As follow up to past formal trainings, a total of 18 health staffs received on the job training at facility level, on OPD-SAM management.

Upon completion of the SQUEAC survey (conducted under CHF grant – see above), to which ACF Nutrition staffs participated, the team will be working with BDN - the BPHS implementer - on a comprehensive action plan to address all of the barriers identified to accessing OPD-SAM services in the province, as well as the shortfalls captured in terms of the quality of services delivered. The plan will then be shared with PNO and Provincial Health Directorate.

The WASH team has in September finalized the process of contracting suppliers for hard works planned in health facilities. Hygiene promotion activities continued in the district of Khulm, where 440 attended sensitization sessions around personal hygiene, separated between male and female.

Activity	Target	Achieved to date	% Achieved
# Assessments within 5 days after report	N/A	20	N/A
# Response provided within 10 days	N/A		N/A
Cash distribution for 1 month food needs	1,500 Hhs	594 Hhs	40%
In-kind NFI distribution	473 Hhs	42 Hhs	9%
In-cash NFI distribution	1,227 Hhs	552 Hhs	45%

For any further questions, please contact hom@af.missions-acf.org