

Updates on ACBAR's Training Courses

During June and July 2015, ACBAR provided training courses in Faryab, Kandahar and Kabul Provinces. These trainings were funded by the Afghan Civil Society Support Initiative and Tawanmandi. In total 192 participants (ACBAR members and Tawanmandi partners) received training in the following:

Project cycle management:

A training module developed by ACBAR, mainly focused on data collection methodology, data analysis, report writing and decision making. The training will enable the trainees to:

- Decide what kind of data to collect for each project cycle phase (initial assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation)
- Plan and carry out assessments by using different data collection methods and tools
- Analyze data with different methods (statistics, participatory, problem tree, etc.)
- Identify relevant information and contribute to different kinds of project cycle reports (initial assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation)
- Summarize findings to inform decision-making process.

Humanitarian Access in Situations of Armed Conflict:

- Afghanistan is a party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to Additional Protocol II 1977. Based on the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II, the parties to a conflict have a responsibility to facilitate humanitarian access for the people who are in need. By conducting trainings on Humanitarian Access in Situation of Armed Conflicts & Humanitarian Principles, trainees gained knowledge in their legal rights and the legal framework surrounding humanitarian access in situations of armed conflict.

Afghan Laws: (NGOs Law, Labor Law and Income Tax Law)

- This training will build and enhance the knowledge and capacity of participants on specific issues related to labor law such as; work permits and recruitment conditions. Trainees were informed of the conditions of establishing an NGO, using and managing assets, unauthorized activities for NGOs, auditing, and reporting to Ministry of Economy. The training also provide in depth information into the NGO Law 2005. This includes issues relating to taxes such as income tax laws, tax annual salary and tax statements, conditions for using tax exemptions, and tax penalties.

Good News from Afghanistan

ACBAR

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development

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ACBAR and Humanitarian Partners Produce Position Papers for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on the 26th-27th May 2016. This is the first global summit of its size and scope to be held on humanitarian action. It is an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to bring the global community together in order to map out a new humanitarian approach that is more effective and inclusive, and more representative of the needs and challenges of millions of people today and in years to come. With the humanitarian system is being stretched to its maximum across the globe, with crisis's in South Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and the Central African Republic and the Ebola crisis, Afghanistan must not be forgotten.

Following the WHS Afghanistan National Consultation in May 2015, ACBAR have produced a position paper which discusses the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan with a particular focus on the four themes of the WHS: humanitarian effectiveness, reducing vulnerability and managing risk, transformation through innovation, and serving the needs of people in conflict. The paper also provides key recommendations to see humanitarian action in Afghanistan strengthened. In a context of continued conflict, propensity to natural disasters, protracted displacement, and insufficient access to basic needs, the humanitarian community must be prepared for a sustained humanitarian effort for the coming years. A process of effective inclusion of stakeholders on all levels is therefore required. In moving towards the World Humanitarian Summit and beyond, the Afghanistan humanitarian community should:

- Re-affirm their commitment to respect and promote the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and re-affirm the value of the humanitarian imperative;
- Re-affirm the good practice of Humanitarian Donor-ship and commit to ensuring a full-scale separation of humanitarian response from military objectives by delinking humanitarian aid from political, security and military agendas during and beyond transition;
- Re-affirm and protect the fundamental right for all affected people, regardless of gender, disabilities and backgrounds to access humanitarian aid;
- Prioritize and fund needs-based humanitarian programs that target vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, and persons with disabilities, and invest further in strengthening humanitarian coordination, financing and leadership mechanisms in order to improve the quality, relevance and timeliness of humanitarian responses.
- Provide support to Afghan institutions, NGOs and local communities to help build disaster management and response capacity through increased funding to local humanitarian preparedness and disaster risk reduction programs.

The position paper will be shared during the WHS South and Central Asian Regional Consultation on the 27th July 2015. Along with other Afghan NGOs, Government bodies, UN members and representatives from the private sector and academic field, ACBAR will also be attending the Regional Consultation.

ACBAR is also member of the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC), an alliance of diverse international nongovernmental and civil society organizations and academic institutions, all working to protect health workers, services and infrastructure from violence during times of armed conflict and civil unrest. The SHCC submits three recommendations for consideration by leaders during WHS:

1. Recognize and articulate the imperative of protecting local health workers and facilities, and consider how strategies designed to protect foreign humanitarian staff may differ from those needed for the protection of these local groups.
2. Articulate support for strengthening global health, human rights law and accountability mechanisms for monitoring and reporting, and ensuring accountability for attacks against health care in these contexts.
3. Identify violence against health care in non-conflict settings as an important consideration in this thematic discussion and WHS more broadly.

ACBAR will also be included in a Joint-Statement On Humanitarian Reform. The call for a reform of the global humanitarian system is a key issue for 1,940 participants representing 1,324 humanitarian organizations in 39 preparatory consultations facilitated by The Humanitarian Forum ahead of the WHS. The statement calls for the global humanitarian system to:

1. Refocus on saving lives and ending suffering: NGOs, donors and governments must not compete over resources, political influence and visibility but cooperate better and focus their efforts on the common cause of meeting human needs.
2. Create a humanitarian system that works for all: Humanitarian actors must reform the current system to make it more inclusive and therefore accountable and equitable by proactively involving those currently excluded in the global South and East.
3. Protect aid agencies from harm and counter-terrorism policies: Multilateral agencies, governments and donors must do more to protect aid workers, understand the real challenges they face on the ground and protect them from the negative impact of counter-terrorism legislation and policies.
4. Utilized diaspora communities to improve aid efforts: The knowledge, networks and dedication of diaspora communities must be better utilized to plan and deliver humanitarian aid as well as promote community cohesion and peace-building.

Website: www.acbar.org

DO NOT FORGET AFGHANISTAN
THE WORLD IS GRADUALLY FORGETTING

ACBAR

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development



Activities and achievements from ACBAR Members

OXFAM Afghanistan (OXFAM)

Oxfam in Afghanistan

Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations (affiliates) networked together in more than 94 countries. Oxfam in Afghanistan has been present since 1961. During that time it has carried out a whole range of programmes, either through direct implementation or with and through partners. This more than five decades spanning history of collaboration and cooperation in Afghanistan has helped to build Oxfam's name and reputation. Oxfam in Afghanistan functions in more than 12 provinces and it mainly focusses its programming in three areas. Poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and community resilience have continued over the years to be one of the key focus areas of Oxfam Afghanistan's work, with a solid impact on the communities it has supported. Projects such as Markets for Afghan Artisans (Zardozi), provide women with opportunities to learn marketable handicraft skills and connecting them to markets and Integrated Local Food Processing Initiative (Dairy Processing and Fruit Drying Project) Empowering women and youth through increased awareness about and access to their rights and opportunities is another main focus area of its work in Afghanistan.

Examples are: The Great IDEA project, focusing on girl's right to education in Afghanistan through innovative distance education; The Bayan programme focusing on inclusive security and political participation of women. Reduction of harm and the increase of resilience to both natural and man-made disasters is another focus area of Oxfam work in Afghanistan and it has been delivered projects such as winterisation support project for Pakistani refugees in Khost province in two districts where there are no other international agencies and basic needs are largely unmet; Humanitarian response in Badakhshan, helping local communities build resilience and help recover from natural disasters.

GREAT IDEA is an example of how Oxfam support Afghans and pave the way to access quality education.

Great IDEA (Girls' Rights to Education in Afghanistan through Innovative Distance Education) Great IDEA is a distance-learning project of Oxfam Afghanistan that uses live television broadcasts to improve students' access to and the quality of teachers for math, chemistry, physics and biology. This is dedicated to both girls and boys in secondary and high schools, where such opportunities would normally not exist. In a television studio in Kabul, a master trainer teaches a class of students. This is broadcasted live to classroom televisions in 61 schools in Parwan, Kapisa, Kabul and Panjsher provinces. After the 20-minute lesson, the students and teachers are able call the studio, in real time, and ask the teacher in Kabul questions about the lesson. They can also phone and leave messages for the master trainer who will provide answers to the questions in the next telecast lesson. Since the start of the project 10,420 students have been benefited that 4786 of them are female. The number of teachers trained and better able to support students in their educational and social development increased by 20% and Physical violence against school students



Photo from OXFAM Projects

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Activities and achievements from ACBAR Members

Mahboba's Promise Inc. (MP)

Mahboba's Promise Inc. is an Australian non-Government, non-profit, association. Its sole focus is on international aid and development for the benefit of vulnerable women and children of Afghanistan. It was founded in 2001 by Mahboba Rawi.

Mahboba's Promise Inc. works with its sister Organization, Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan which acts as the main implementation agency for its activities on-the-ground.

Mahboba's Promise projects fit into three core groups:

- Child & youth development
- Community development
- Women's' empowerment

Currently Mahboba's Promise operates the following activities:

Three community education centers ('Hope Houses') located in Kabul, Panjshir Valley and Takhar. These accommodate around 150 orphans in total.

Hazrat Ali Orphanage in Kabul, house and educate around 20 orphans; Operational support for two schools in the Panjshir Valley, Abdara Girls' and Abdara is also provided.



The organization also has a boys' schools which educates approximately 500 students; A medical center in Panjshir Valley; Various social enterprise ventures including a permaculture farm, a dairy cooperative, and a confectionary factory; Various vocational training programs such as tailoring and handicraft, maternity health care and plumbing; A women at risk program supports around 500 widows and orphans through its sponsorship programs in Kabul and Panjshir Valley.

Mahboba's Promise Inc. is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to its Code of Conduct.

The patron of Mahboba's Promise is the former Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO.

Find out more about Mahboba's Promise at

www.mahbobaspromise.org



Photos from MP Project