

Updates on ACBAR's New Program: Support Humanitarian-Twinning Program

In an effort to provide long-term benefits to the humanitarian response system in Afghanistan, ACBAR have initiated the "Support Humanitarian Assistance – Twinning Program". Over four years, the Twinning Program of ACBAR, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), aims to increase the response capacity of Afghan NGOs and improve their eligibility to access international funding in the humanitarian field, especially the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).

By providing information and improving capacity to undertake new interventions and programming, this initiative encourages the development of innovative approaches to humanitarian aid. The Twinning Program will break down the barriers which impede on humanitarian efforts by deepening understanding, communication and coordination between NGOs working in all 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

The twinning program was designed with the understanding that as the international presence in Afghanistan decreases and conflict and natural disasters persist, NNGO responsibility for providing humanitarian aid will increase.

In collaboration with OCHA & Clusters, Afghan NGOs (twinnees) will be trained by INGOs (twinners) to carry out assessments on protection, WASH, food security, health and nutrition; and to properly submit grants (quality and needs correspondence). Selected Afghan NGOs will following the twinner in all meeting and also be expected to report to the UN cluster system.

INGOs experienced in providing humanitarian aid will act as mentors to selected NGOs, to increase their capacity to conduct assessments and increase their participation in the UN cluster system. ACBAR will be responsible for the overall training materials and training operations of human resources, administration, finance and management.

In this way, ACBAR will increase institutional capacity through trainings on topics including HR, Administration and Finance. Throughout the program ACBAR will monitor the program in order to identify INGOs that will later be eligible for ACBAR funding to conduct their own field assessments.

Currently, ACBAR is working with OCHA, the clusters, and INGO partners to identify qualified NGOs who, with proper mentoring and training, will be able to provide humanitarian assistance of a high quality.

ACBAR, DFID and all partners are confident that participation in this program will be beneficial to all.

Not only will the program allow NNGOs be able to confidently apply for a variety of humanitarian funds and contribute to coordination in the clusters, but INGOs will benefit from the knowledge and access that NGOs can provide.

Good News from Afghanistan

ACBAR

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development

MAY 2015



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What is ACBAR doing for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)?

ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development in collaboration with Islamic Relief will convey the Afghan National consultations on May 21st 2015 in preparation for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The national consultation, in line with the UN Secretary-General's plan to convene a global humanitarian summit will focus on mapping out a new humanitarian approach that is more effective and inclusive, and more representative of the needs and challenges of the rapidly changing world.

The Afghan National Consultation will represent the widest range of perspectives and experiences of humanitarian organizations in the country, including, government bodies, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, the donor community, and embassies in Kabul to set an agenda to more effectively meet the needs of millions of people. In particular, the Afghanistan National Consultation will focus on:

HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS – The humanitarian community will need to work more efficiently and effectively to meet growing and more complex needs with limited resources and by working better together with the diverse actors involved in humanitarian action.

REDUCING VULNERABILITY AND MANAGING RISK –

Humanitarian action is not optimally set up to help people and governments reduce their vulnerability to humanitarian crises. Governments, humanitarians and development actors need to work together to better anticipate humanitarian crises, act before they become catastrophes and prevent their recurrence.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION –

The humanitarian system needs to be better at adapting and improving to respond to more complex humanitarian needs. This will require looking beyond the current systems and processes, and exploring new technologies and partners to identify new tools, products and services.

SERVING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN CONFLICT –

The humanitarian community needs to examine how to strengthen its capacity and work better with partners to provide principled humanitarian action in these contexts.

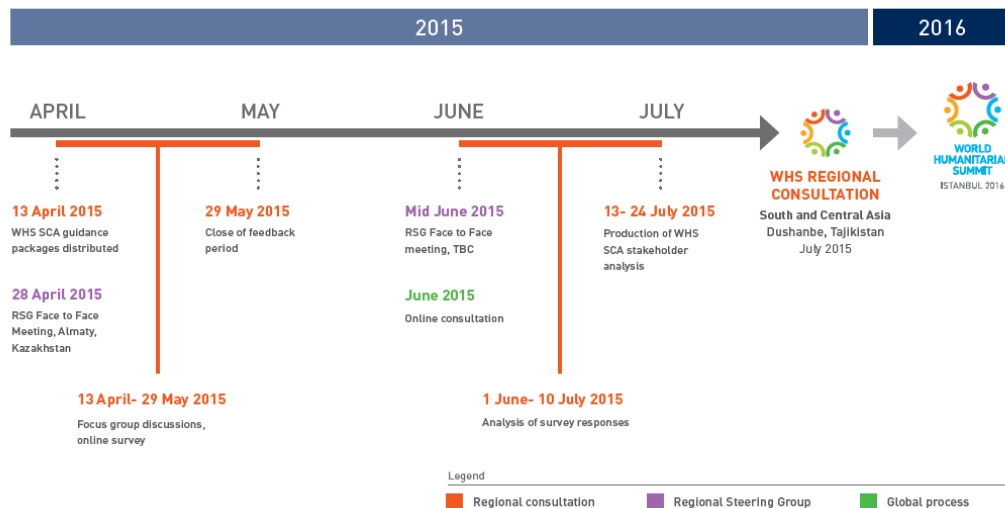
It is also important to ensure that the experiences of those affected by crises are reflected in the WHS. Capturing the perspectives of affected populations' perspectives is therefore a critical aspect of preparing for the WHS.

As a lead NGO consortium in Afghanistan, ACBAR will be organizing focus group discussions with people from communities affected by natural disasters and/or conflict induced crises emergencies at a provincial level.

This will allow for the collation and analysis of consultation results from across the country and among diverse stakeholder groups.

Along with the results from the National Consultation, the analysis of affected people's inputs will appear in the stakeholder report for the WHS Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia (SCA) which will take place in Dushanbe in the July 2015.

For more information on the World Humanitarian Summit please visit:
<http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>



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Activities and achievements from ACBAR Members

Mhair Education and Human Rights Organization (MEHRO)



Introduction

Mhair Education and Human Rights Organization (MEHRO) is a non-profit making, non-sectarian and non-political humanitarian organization which was created in 2002 by an educated, qualified and dedicated Afghan to help local communities recover from three decades of war. The aims were to provide public awareness of human rights, women rights, gender, conflict resolution and anti-corruption through engaging local communities in awareness rising sessions mostly targeting youth and women as well as to work with communities for sustainable development in Afghanistan.

Our mission and vision of the organization have clearly reflected in our strategic plan and projects.

Mission

MEHRO's mission is to improve lives and livelihoods of Afghans through education, literacy training and sustainable developmental projects in order to see an Afghanistan free from poverty, violence and discrimination, where human rights are respected and all live in dignity, enjoy equal opportunity and social justice.

Vision:

Our overall vision is to realize an aware, prosperous, and healthy society in Afghanistan where quality social services are provided based on the principles of democracy, social justice and peace.

MEHRO is currently implementing a project from Afghanistan Workforce Development Program UAID/AWDP based in Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh Province in the construction sector providing electric, stone work, steel work,

plumbing and soft skills training to 230 midcareer employees out of which 70% will be placed in jobs and promoted.

MEHRO is also implementing the United Nations World Food Program project in low-income, food-insecure areas of Khost which is specifically aimed to improve the food security and the standard of living for the inhabitants of Khost province.

The program possesses the advantage of targeting the poor and encouraging local economic growth since it supports local infrastructure and tries to improve the living conditions. Incidentally, our project implementation strengthens long-term food security by improving local infrastructure.

The project's aim is to improve the local infrastructure. By taking care of the rehabilitation and the cleaning of canals and Karez, reparation of roads, and building retaining walls, the project directly addresses the problem of the pollution of the water and of malnutrition.

Activities of the project:

Through the implementation of this project, we implement the following activities:

Construction of Retaining Wall for Shamoni Village in Shamal district (Quantity: 800m³) which will protect 500 Acres (Jrib) land from flood damage

Construction of Retaining Wall for Kajari Kalli in Matun district (Quantity: 650m³) which will protect 300 Acres (Jrib) agricultural land from flood damage.

Canal rehabilitation for Matun district in Khalisa Kalli: (length: 160 m).

Shaikh Zahid University: Implantation of 5000 plants



Photo from MEHRO project



Photo from MEHRO project

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Empowerment Center for women (ECW)



ECW Background: The Empowerment Center for women (ECW) was established in 1997 with the aim of providing resources to Afghan women and girls to help them to be empowered, economically independent, and socially active. Since its establishment continuously expanded its services to different parts of the country. ECW's vision is women's empowerment through supporting the expansion of assets and capabilities of Afghan women to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives.

Women dignity and respect significantly endures in forms of Badal, force marriages, raps and injustice in Kunduz. The cultural system and informal justice mechanism resist against women inclusion and equal participation in making decision on rights, conflicts and societal violence. All this injustice is tremendously influencing the women well-beings, their access to social and economic needs and rights. Women violence and injustice deadened the momentum of women struggle for advancing the women rights. This situation critically overturns the women remarkable achievement of activism and the creative poetry for the women rights protection and empowerment.

An International Women Day-2015 was celebrated in Kunduz and it recognized the invaluable struggle of 65 women activists and 25 creative poets through honoring with performance awards. This day discerned the women activists to the local community, religious scholars and civil society within standard Islamic perspectives.

The creative writers 'poets' honorable work on women issues and hardships informed people on the significance of women skills and role in national economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

Ms. Nooria Ahmadzai, Civil Society Institution Director expressed that the day has encouraged me to struggle further in terms of protecting women's rights, even If I lose my life in it". I want to be that feminist who change the world for women. Ms. Muzhgan Arzbiki, expressed this award has brought a big revolution in my life and I think a girl can do anything she just needs to believe herself. Ms. Fahima, Radio Reporter said "I am a feminist because I believe in social change, equality and making society a more equal place by my profession". Ms. Nahid Asifi, caretaker of DOWA in Kunduz "this award has empowered me as it persuaded to work for women's rights indefatigably. There are few people in Afghanistan who are strong and brave enough to take risks for a cause this is greater than we are".

This first time celebration of the day has transformed CSOs, government and civil society attitudes and efforts that defending women rights is defending actually for change through women driven development. Eighty of hundred endorsed for adopting culture for women day in Kunduz as it advocates and transforms behaviors on women achievements instead of cultural barriers and injustice against women and especially girl.



Photo from ECW project



Photo from ECW project