



ACBAR's Afghanistan Development Forum with the Ministry of Defense March 10th 2015

The Afghanistan Development Forum (ADF) is a monthly platform for NGOs and any stakeholders to discuss development issues and coordinate effective delivery assistance to vulnerable Afghans. In March, the Chief of the Health Department within the Ministry of Defense (MoD) was invited to the ADF for an open discussion about the protection of health workers in Afghanistan.

NGOs articulated issues they have experienced in their line of work. This included instances of soldiers assaulting staff in health facilities and accusing them of supporting insurgents, thereby undermining the independence, impartiality, neutrality and humanity of NGOs.

Others stated that their health facilities have been forced to close due to checkpoints being situated too near their establishments. In some areas, motorcycles belonging to NGOs are being destroyed by the ANA or ANP who associate their use with insurgents. This has prevented access to beneficiaries in remote areas.

There is also an issue of soldiers using health facilities as look-out posts or taking shelter in them which is against international humanitarian law. The ADF requested that the MoD train their staff in humanitarian law to protect civilians according to their rights.

The ADF were then briefed that that Afghan national army surgeon general has been divided into a Policy and Strategy Making Department and Health Operational Department.

The National Army manages hospitals in 5 zones of the country (East, West, North, South East and South West regions) to provide health services to the national army as well to the civilians in emergency situations.

The issues raised by the ADF will be reported to the high command of the ANA for further action. The ADF were advised that NGOs can directly refer to the ANA base at a provincial level to raise any difficulties they face.

Furthermore, the National Emergency Response Committee (NERC) which consists of the MoD, MoI, MoED, MRRD, MoPH, MoHE and the US Army are developing an action plan for the health sector in terms of emergency response, rescue and coordination. Once the plan is completed it will be sent to Parliament for approval before being shared with the NGO community.

ACBAR Holds General Assembly March 11th 2015

ACBAR's General Assembly met on the 11th March 2015. The General Assembly meets twice a year and is the highest decision making organ of ACBAR. During the General Assembly, ACBAR's annual documents, Statutes of Operations and new members were approved. A new Steering Committee was also elected.

Modifications to ACBAR's Statutes of Operations were reviewed by the General Assembly and unanimously approved. Within these new modifications, the Steering Committee will now consist of 15 members including the Chairperson. The Steering Committee is a key organ of the organization and works to monitor, inform, guide, direct and assist the work of ACBAR. The director of ACBAR is responsible for all decisions within ACBAR and is answerable to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meeting will convene each last Thursday of the calendar month while ad-hoc meetings may be called upon as required. As the number of Steering Committee members has changed from 13 to 15, the quorum for Steering Committee meetings is now 7+1.

Under new modifications made to the election process of ACBAR's Steering Committee, there will be no alternate membership for the Steering Committee. Elections for the Steering Committee will be held at the Annual General Assembly.

With regards to modifications made to ACBAR's membership application process, from now on new applicants must submit a detailed narrative description in English of their organization, including background details, a copy of their annual budget and audit report, projects currently being implemented, planned future projects, funding sources, statutes of operation, and organizational structure. Upon receipt of a new application, the ACBAR's secretariat will undertake a complete verification process based on the information con-

The Steering Committee may then make an initial decision to forward the application to the General Assembly, request further information, or reject the application if it feels that the basic criteria are not fulfilled. Applicants may re-apply once criteria are fulfilled

The list of vetted applications will then be sent to all ACBAR members three weeks prior to the General Assembly with the full pack of documents. The General Assembly will consider the application. The applicant NGO may make short presentation at the beginning of the General Assembly to introduce itself and its work to other members of ACBAR and answer any questions from the members. The applicant NGO will be informed of its nomination or rejection in writing the day following the General Assembly. Lastly, The approval of the external auditor shall now occur each year.

ACBAR's 2014 annual report was also unanimously approved. Highlights from the annual report include, ACBAR trainings on tax, human resources and humanitarian principles. ACBAR supported 100 NGOs on work permit/visa issues and supported 87% of NGO members on MoFin issues. ACBAR also influenced modification of the national Visa Decree and Labor Law. ACBAR's membership to the HCT and CHF Advisory Board allows ACBAR to ensure humanitarian aid transparency and access of funds for NGOs. In 2014, ACBAR hosted a number of workshops and events including the JCMB Briefing, TMAF Conference Briefing, Donors Workshop II & III, Refugees Workshop and the Protection of Health Workshop.

ACBAR participated in international conferences including the NATO Conference and London Conference. The 'Do Not Forget Afghanistan' campaign reached over 20 countries. ACBAR also produced position papers for London Conference in the areas of women's rights, aid effectiveness, governance, and service delivery.

The General Assembly then approved the 2014 Annual Budget. ACBAR had a good financial year without any problems. ACBAR's main donors were Tawanmandi, Peace Winds Japan and partners, Management Systems International (MSI) and the Norwegian Refugee Council.

ACBAR members were then given an opportunity to nominate themselves for a seat on ACBAR's Steering Committee. Amanullah Jawad from NPO/RRA was voted Chairperson. Successful Steering Committee members were, H el ene Vidon (MADERA), Fazel Rabi Haqbeen (TEO), Raz Mohammad Dalili, (SDOO) Dr. Mohammad Fared Asmand, (AHDS), Sayed Abdullah Ahmadi (CCA), Inge Detlefsen (RI), Stefan Racker (CG), Dr. Saydul Alom (IRW), Charles Davy (Afghan-Aid), Wendy Barron (CFA), Dr. James Williams (JUH), Sabriullah Memlawal, (JVC), Ajmal Shirzai (FGA), and Zabihullah Ghazawi (COAR).

ACBAR is pleased to welcome the following NGOs to the coordinating body: HRDA, WACEO, ASAARO, RORA, MDC, TEO, and PACO. All the new members were given the opportunity to present themselves and answer questions from the General Assembly before their membership was voted upon. ACBAR now has 135 members within the organization.



ACBAR General Assembly

ACBAR

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development

APRIL 2015



Activities and achievements from ACBAR Members

Development and Ability Organization (DAO)

DAO was founded in 2004, under the vision that all persons with disabilities in Afghanistan will be able to fully and actively participate in Afghanistan's social and economic life.

DAO's mission is to advocate and raise awareness on disability rights, build the capacity of civil society organizations and assist people with disabilities through vocational training and income generation projects.

DAO's advocacy initiatives includes Radio and TV programs for people with disabilities and a bimonthly disability publication called 'Gadoon' which is published in Pashto, Dari and English. DAO also provide trainings to Government officials, persons with disabilities and provides physical rehabilitation services by producing artificial limbs. DAO's Civic Engagement Program builds the capacity of the Afghan civil society organizations (CSO's) and NGO's to independently monitor government activities. DAO has also assisted in the development of national disability terminology in Afghanistan.

Through working in partnerships with other national and International organizations such as Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, AOAD and ADVS DAO have been able to reduce negative attitudes against persons with disabilities in Afghanistan, although a lot of work is still needed.

Currently DAO runs a physical rehabilitation center which produces artificial limbs in Kunar and Nuristan province. Additionally, DAO are also implementing a capacity building project in Kunar province with the financial assistance of Counterpart International. .

In the past, DAO has implemented its activities with the financial assistance of UN Mine Action Coordination Center of Afghanistan.

For more information please refer to our website: www.daoafghanistan.org



Photo from DAO project



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Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)

The mission of Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) is to reduce poverty and increase food security for the people of Afghanistan by improving the health and production of their livestock.

DCA reaches a large number of people living in Afghanistan because about 80% of the population are dependent on livestock. Since its foundation in 1994, DCA has built up a nation-wide system of private veterinary field units. Our ultimate aim is that all livestock owners in Afghanistan have easy access to high quality veterinary care for their animals, and can rely on healthy and productive animals for a proper livelihood. DCA currently implements 9 prominent projects in 28 provinces.

Brooke, an international equine welfare organization is working under DCA partnership to improve conditions for horses and donkeys. DCA's extension core team develops extension materials on best practices in animal health and production for Veterinarians, Paravets and livestock owners. The team already completed eight packages and will improve another 28 packages.

Moreover, DCA is developing a value chain strategy to improve farmer productivity and small ruminant business profitability. DCA is strengthening the value chain by creating new VFUs, providing livestock extension, and developing supporting markets for sheep and goats.

DCA has established four training centers where it conducts training. The trainees come and participate from all provinces of Afghanistan. Paravets are trained to be of great assistance to all livestock owners living in rural areas. The Paravets receive a six month practical based course so they can provide a skilled service to their communities. They also are able to improve animal products and animal health, so the livestock owners can have improved income. After graduating from the course, trained Paravets are equipped with all clinic requirements and materials to start their service in their provinces.

The trained Paravets know what role they play in the community, and have received sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge to perform their role to serve Afghans. They are monitored by Veterinarians both Private and Public.



Photo from DCA project



Photo from DCA project