



ACBAR's Afghanistan Development Forum on BPHS/EPHS Implementation

The Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)/ Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) is a national policy for the Afghan health system. The BPHS delineates the services that should be provided by each type of healthcare facility, and specifies the staff, equipment, diagnostic services, and medications required to provide those services. The EPHS complements the BPHS and governs hospital care in major urban centers.

On the 10th February 2015, ACBAR's Afghanistan Development Forum (ADF) discussed experiences, challenges and opportunities surrounding BPHS/EPHS implementation.

Attendees were also briefed on BPHS/EPHS updates by the acting head of the Grants and Service Contracts Management Unit (GCMU) within the Ministry of Public Health. The following updates were provided:

The MoPH/ GCMU have 18 contracts for BPHS and 9 contracts for EPHS under SEHAT Phase I in 18 provinces, and 4 contracts for HIV Harm Reduction and 1 contract for Third Party Monitoring and Evaluation. There are also 13 BPHS contracts, 2 EPHS contracts and 3 BPHS and EPHS contracts under Partnership Contracts for Health Services (PCH) in 13 provinces.

The PCH project will end in June 2015 and will be transitioned to the System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) 2 project which will start in July 2015.

The SEHAT 2 project has been developed to sustain and improve BPHS and EPHS services through 31 provinces (34 BPHS and 14 EPHS) under the MoPH. Financial support is provided from USAID, EU, ARTF and the World Bank.

The main challenge for the MoPH is access, but the new government plans to adopt strategies to increase access to health facilities.

ACBAR Holds Advocacy Working Group on Humanitarian Access

On the 12th February 2015, ACBAR held its monthly Advocacy Working Group (AWG) meeting on Humanitarian Access. The aim was to identify different access initiatives and discuss how the humanitarian community can work more efficiently and effectively to meet growing and more complex needs of vulnerable populations in areas of conflict.

NRC provided a presentation on their Humanitarian Access Project. The project communicates to the public, in an understandable way, the principles of independence, impartiality, and neutrality which guide humanitarian workers.

For example, radio drama's broadcast to communities incorporate these principles in story telling across the country. Radio is a suitable medium for the masses in access-problematic areas. The project has also produced booklets explaining Afghan etiquette for the benefit of international humanitarians.

Further to this, the project aims to enable more Madrasahs to become humanitarian aid workers. NRC are teaching a module on humanitarian principles and practices to graduates of Islamic Madrasahs in the south and east of the country with an aim to get more Madrasahs graduates working for humanitarian organizations. Madrasahs graduates are completely unrepresented in humanitarian organizations. This creates an unbalanced perception of impartiality and means that humanitarian organizations are depriving themselves of humanitarian workers who will work with absolute commitment to the cause, once they understand that the humanitarian principles tally with their own traditions of charity.

The project also works with community mobilizers. These are people who work in areas of limited access, where the humanitarian organizations cannot access the beneficiaries, to bring the beneficiaries' needs to the humanitarian organization.

OCHA provided a presentation on the Access Monitoring & Reporting Framework (AMRF), a tool used for collecting and analyzing information. The AMRF provides OCHA country offices with a method to collect and analyze data on the impact of access constraints on humanitarian response.

SCA gave a presentation on the Conflict Sensitive Approach Working Group. The Working Group has around 50 members including development, humanitarian and donor actors. It is a forum to share experiences, information and lesson learned. The group wants to develop a common understanding of what "Conflict Sensitivity" means in practice and how it is applied in Afghanistan.

The AWG then had a discussion about collecting and sharing guidelines around humanitarian access, in order to keep them 'live' and support NGOs to implement guidelines.

ACBAR's Workshop on Civil Society

On the 26th January 2015, ACBAR held a workshop on Afghan civil society in order to launch the report, "Panorama of Civil Society Organizations in Afghanistan from the Perspective of Coordination." The workshop also aimed to clearly define civil society in Afghanistan and provide further information to strengthen society through a work group session.

ACBAR's Steering Committee Chairman presented the workshop with a history of Afghanistan's civil society. This included an in depth analysis of modern, traditional, formal and informal approaches to defining civil society. The Presentation also focused on reforms which have taken place within civil society recently, including changes in the way donors approach Afghan civil society today.

AICS presentation focused on functions perceptions, realities and expectations of CSOs. It is NGOs who have access and provide critical services during emergency situations.

However, CSOs and NGOs are perceived to work in non-transparent ways. In the last few years CSOs have worked harder to maintain positive perceptions. Perception is everything and without good perception, CSOs lose their relevance.

CSHRN provided a presentation on coordination between civil society groups and the challenges faced by coordinating bodies in the country. ACKU discussed the space for international organizations within Afghan Civil Society with a focus on developing trust, capacity and ownership of Afghan CSOs.

CI presented on the sustainability of CSOs. Sustainability is a long term process which includes economic resources in addition to socio economic dimensions. It should take into account, capacity building, the need for specialization, advocacy, and trust as an economic and political institution.

APPRO provided presentation on advocacy capacity and lessons learnt on initiatives during the last 13 years by CSOs. The Killid group then discussed progresses in media and CSO development.

During the working group session, The workshop focused on challenges and recommendations for CSOs, networks, CSJWG, the international community, donors, UN agencies, media, government, private sector and the public.

Participants congratulated ACBAR on the successful event and report. Minutes of the workshop will be published shortly.



Members Activities

Activities and achievements from ACBAR Members

Basic Education and Employable Skill Training (BEST)

BEST (Basic Education and Employable Skill Training) is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political and development oriented organization established on 27th of April 2001 and registered with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Economy NGOs. The Organization has a regional coverage through undertaking various Educational (Legal Rights, Human Rights, Teacher Training, Non Formal, Catch-up, Vocational) Awareness Raising (Legal Rights, Advocacy, Women Rights, Support to Electoral Process, Elimination of violation against women, Human Rights, , peace reconciliation, conflict resolution in peace building) Capacity Building (Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Project Designing, Proposal writing, Report Writing, Advocacy, Need Assessment etc. Furthermore, the project focuses on provincial and district civil servants development in general management, financial management , income generation and vocational training. This is also in addition to projects in different sectors for Afghan refugees/returnees and local communities in Afghanistan.

BEST VISION:

Through capacity building empower vulnerable Afghans to alleviate poverty.

BEST MISSION:

To be the leading capacity building agency in Afghanistan working with the vulnerable to alleviate poverty.

Recently BEST has completed the conflict resolution and Peace building project. Activities included:

- Establishment of Peace Advocacy Councils;
- Conduction of advocacy meeting with concerned government bodies, community elders, DDAs, & CDCs;
- Conduction of Community dialogue;
- Conduction of capacity building trainings;
- Conduction of research session with community and government bodies ;

BEST has been implementing the Advancing Women Rights and Social Justice in Afghanistan project which is funded by the Asia Foundation (TAF). Thus the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (EVAW) was ratified by the parliament of Afghanistan in August 2009. The EVAW law is a major step forward in the legal protection of women's rights.

BEST has therefore focused on:

- Conducting a one day orientation workshop to Ulemas regarding EVAW law, (Gazette);
- Conducting a 3 days consultation workshop to Ulemas regarding EVAW law, (Gazette);
- Dialogues with Parliament Members, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Women Affairs;



Photo from our project in Bamyan province



Photo from our project in Logar province

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Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) was established in 1989 and since inception has been working for Afghan women's empowerment and Afghan children protection through four major programs; education, agriculture and livelihood, advocacy & community mobilization and capacity building programs.

FLOW- Funding Leadership Opportunities of Women is a multi-country project being implemented in 4 countries funded by Dutch government with Womankind Worldwide support as the UK based main partner.

AWRC is partner for Afghanistan to implement the project in 6 districts of Kabul and Parwan provinces respectively. Through FLOW project AWRC has built CDC's capacity on management and provided them technical support on regular basis, which enabled the CDC members to better manage the work and enhance documentation within their CDC. Besides, management trainings; the CDCs were also provided training on women's rights and their role in decision making in order to enhance their understanding on women's roles and right and thus strengthening women recognition within the CDC structure.

Support to the female provincial council members is also provided by offering them certain training sessions and mentorship programs on presentations skills and campaigning and monitoring.

AWRC through FLOW also contributed to their campaign by printing certain posters with their message. In addition to this, AWRC is working with the elected provincial council members in terms of their skill development as well as facilitating their coordination with the community people in their relevant provinces.

10,000 women, men and youths received trainings on gender, child rights, women's right, Violence against women, and civic education which contributed in increasing the understanding of community people on the mentioned topics. Advocacy Plans developed by 6 CDCs in 6 districts of Kabul and Parwan provinces, AWRC was able to prepare and finalize six advocacy plans for all six districts with the direct involvement of CDC key members under FLOW project.

The developed advocacy plans were approved and signed by all six CDCs and NSP team in a meeting in Kabul. These advocacy plans are tools for bringing changes in women's positions at district level and involving them in decision making process. AWRC will be directly monitoring the implementation the advocacy plans in all six districts of Parwan and Kabul provinces. Sensitive reporting training sessions were conducted to journalist from different media institutions in both provinces focusing on how to better report women related issues on print and electronic media. AWRC has signed MOU with the targeted media institutions for better and long term coordination.



Photo of AWRC projects



Photo from AWRC projects