



Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development
General Assembly 30 October, 13



ACBAR General Assembly
Wednesday 30th, October 2013
Conference Room, Kabul



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Agenda:

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast and Registration
9:00– 9:05	Opening Prayers, Hamidullah Ahmadi
9:05- 9:10	Welcome and explanation overall Fazel Rabi Haqbeen, Chairperson ACBAR
9:10- 9:20	Minutes Last GA, Chairperson ACBAR
9:20-9:40	Briefing of nine months report 2013, Haqbeen, Chairperson
9:40-9: 50	ACBAR overall financial situation and Budget for 2013, Ahmadi, treasurer.
9:50-10:00	Questions/answers
10:00 - 10:15	ACBAR work plan, and briefing about donors availability, Justine Piquemal, director.
10:15-11:00	New applicants NGO presentations and Election process for new applicants NGOs
11:00 – 11:15	Tea Break
11:15-11:45	New steering committee members election
11:45-12h00	Questions/answers
12:00- 12:30	Open Debate: ACBAR future involvement according to current situation, ACBAR members' needed & expectation and last comment on Strategy
12:30-1:00	Lunch in ACBAR garden



1. Welcome: (Mr. Haqbeen)

After the recitation of the Holy Quran, Mr. Fazel Rabi Haqbeen the chairman of the SC welcomed the floor in the second GA being held in ACBAR conference room. He also welcomed the attendance of ENNA representatives Mr. Fabio and Ms. Anna and Elizabeth for BAAG. Mr. Haqbeen announced the modification of the agenda to the floor.

The quorum met as 57 at 9 am. Ms. Justine the Director thanked her team staff's effective cooperation.

2. Minutes of last GA

The minutes were approved by the maximum majority.

3. Briefing of nine months report 2013, Haqbeen, Chairperson

Mr. Haqbeen mentioned he would go shortly on main four subjects namely Achievements and improvements, Coordination and Networking, Advocacy (transparency, information sharing and government relation) and Challenges. In terms of the achievements he expressed his consent over new initiatives ACBAR took such as new strategy, new policy, new CoC, new structure, new statues of operation, new office and etc. In coordination and networking, ACBAR succeeded to have good relations with other networks like ANCB, AWN, SWABAC, CSHRN, HRRAC, ACSFo, CSDC, FCCS and HCT. ACBAR advocated on transparent fund for ERF, CHF, CHAP, SEHAT process and could give a reasonable presentations to Donors like DIFID, TAWANMANDI ,ECHO etc and published its newsletters and will publish the mapping of donors soon enough. ACBAR signed MoU with BAAG, ENNA and US interaction networks.

Related to the Government, ACBAR facilitated lots of workshops and meetings with MoF, MOLSAMMD, MOECON, MAIL etc and tackled the members' problems like visa/work permit, reporting, tax exemptions and so on.

The challenges consisted of Suspension of Herat office (corruption), absence of control at field level, participation of members in meeting, website and Government relation (MoF, MoLSAMD).

Mr. Haqbeen thanked Ms. Helene Vidon for her usual presence the SC meetings and who filled the gap while the director was not present.

The annual report was approved by the majority and without any questions from the floor.

4. Herat office and new sub office, Haqbeen, Chairperson

Mr. Haqbeen presented the issue of opening of the new sub offices and their necessity based on members' expectations. The subject asked two main questions from the members in the GA;
1.

Do you want to re open Herat office? 2. Do we need another sub office, if yes, which place?
Badakhshan / Bamyan or Kunduz



- The majority voted to re open Herat sub office.

After a long discussion and comments, members decided to have ACBAR hire more Remote Managers in order to travel to 34 Provinces for the members instead of opening new sub offices.

- No new sub office.

5. ACBAR overall financial situation and Budget for 2013, Mr.Ahmadi, treasurer.

Mr. Ahmadi initially gave a briefing on nine month financial report. According to the annual budget of ACBAR for 2013, \$ 603404 referred to its activities and \$211,054 goes for some projects implemented by ACBAR. Total budget during Jan-Sep 2013 was \$ 814358 out of which the total expenditure was around \$ 412,789. The expected three month budget is \$ 118,623 therefore; it would be \$ 531,212 till the end of the year. Opening balance at the first October was \$ 106,788. Total receivable during the remaining 3 months is \$ 55,111. The closing balance at the end of December is \$14,226.

The total income of ACBAR during these nine months was \$ 329,241.

The current ACBAR's donor is Japan for their PWJ project, membership fees corporates most of the income which was \$209,640., the job advertisement was around \$35,837.

The projects with NRC and SCA were completed. French Embassy signed a contract amount of \$ 58,770 for radio Surobi.

Members who did not pay their membership fee for 2013 were asked to pay after the general assembly.

- General assembly approved the nine months report at the majority.

Since all the members had the format for financial budget for 2014 and report, they were asked to vote for its approval. ACBAR may financially secure for 3 years.

- The financial report and budget for 2014 were approved by the majority of members.

6. ACBAR work plan, and briefing about donors' availability, Justine Piquemal, director.

Although the details were distributed electronically to all members, Ms. Justine shortly went through some ACBAR work plan related points. She introduced the new chart, recruiting the Advocacy manger with his team (policy officer, CoC officer) and internal audit recommendations.

Strategy 2013/2016:

SCA paid for the consultancy of the strategy through one month hired adviser Divya Suma. The vision and mission has not changed yet namely ACBAR is at the service of its members only. ACBAR strategy focuses on four pillars namely Advocacy/ Policy/ Outreach Aid Effectiveness, Facilitation & Capacity Development and Coordination and Information Sharing. ACBAR hopefully recruits the Advocacy Manger very soon. ACBAR will continue on advocating for independence of basic services and health centers or schools during elections. ACBAR does not support anybody so neither its members.

Relations with the Government improved a lot. ACBAR is part of *Think Tank* for fund in Afghanistan. Members were asked to actively attend the Clusters or no fund will come from CHF. ACBAR is involved with on budget process TMAF. Trainings are on going in Provinces



during the meeting, the training team was in Baghlan and Kunduz. ACBAR is going to print the CoC.

- Strategy had been voted at majority by the General assembly.

Ms. Justine briefed on update of TAWANMANI new fund. \$ 1, 500,000 for three years. DIFID could also give fund around 1,300,000 in the near future. Overall, ACBAR will be secured until 2017, in addition with the Japan fund.

- New funds and projects had been voted at majority by General assembly

ACBAR updated lots of policies as recommended by internal auditors; new anti corruption, BCP and Reserve policies. The SC will sign a non conflict of interest document, to protect their representation of ACBAR.

Signed MoU with BAAG, ENNA and US interaction networks.

At the end, Ms. Justine seriously requested the members to actively attend the meetings in ACBAR.

Amongst the several auditors, ACBAR finally chose Zia Masoud.

- General assembly accepted the new auditor

The members suggested changing the meetings' schedule to Monday through Thursday in the afternoon and it was well noted.

7. New Members:

The following new members were approved and accepted by the maximum majority of the members:

1. CDE (Chaine de l'espoir): This NGO was created in 1988 in France which is working in in more than 30 countries for the children. It has partnership with Aga Khan Foundation in Afghanistan. The budget is 15,000,000 Euro and 100,000 children are benefiting from their health services and 11000 benefiting from education services.
2. JOHANNITER International Assistance: German international NGO based in Berlin, the oldest organization in the world. They have been working in Afghanistan since 2002 mainly in primary health care. JIA work in Mazar, Kabul disaster response.
3. GERES (Group of Environment Renewable Energy and Solidarity): A French NGO with 250 staff in 12 developing countries. 60 staff in Kabul.
4. MDM (Medecins du Monde): To provide health facilities to the most vulnerable communities and to reduce the health and social risks toward drug users. MDM was previously the member but in 2012 they withdrew from the membership.
5. WCS (Wild life conservation society): founded in 1895 based in New York and working in over 60 countries for natural resources and wild life conservation. They have been in Afghanistan since 2006 in Kabul, Bamyán and Badakhshan. 73 staff of whom 66 are Afghans and 5 permanent expatriate. Funded by USAID and some ad hoc money from small grantors. \$ 2,5 M for the next year.



6. PIPAA (People in peril Association Afghanistan): An NGO based in Bratislava Slovak country established in 1990 with office in Kabul. They have four departments; financial, global education, humanitarian and human rights. Several missions worldwide in Haiti, Russia and India. Projects in South Sudan and Afghanistan. PIPAA has been in Afghanistan since 2004 working for Agriculture and Education. Partners are CHA and Ashiana. Funding donors are the Slovak Government and German Embassy. Yearly budget is 400,000 Euro.
7. NAQ (Nai Qala): Established at the beginning of 2013 to build schools and improve literacy in Afghanistan. The NGO has been based in Geneva since 2007. One office in Kabul with two local staff. Constructed 7 schools and one clinic in Provinces of Ghazni and Bamyán.
8. DAO (Development and Ability Organization): Founded in early 2004. The activities are to rehabilitate physically the disables. They distribute Monthly publications for them in Afghanistan. Working in Kandahar, Takhar, Badakhshan and Herat. The main donors are Counter Part international, UNMAS.
9. ADVS (Afghan Disables and Vulnerable Society): established in 1990 but in 2006 was renamed and registered in the MoECON to ADVS. The vision is to help people with disability and vulnerable conditions. Provide education for orphans and poor children. Their management board has 6 members. Fatima Zahra High School and vocational training centers for women are the projects. UNHCR, WFP and SCA are the donors.
10. ANAF AE (Afghan National Assistance for Adults Education): established in Afghanistan since 2005. Activities are Adults and Youth Education. Active in 12 Provinces; Kabul, Faryab, Herat, Kapisa, Sari Pul, Shiberghan, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan. Literacy and skill trainings are the main focus of ANAF AE. The fund is from German Ministry of Economy and Corporation. The yearly budget is up to 1,5 million Euro and fees of the participants each year. 374 full staff. 20,000 learners per day in their courses.
11. OM (Operation Mercy): It is an international NGO in 10 to 13 countries worldwide. Working in Afghanistan since 2001 busy with relief and development projects. They have three offices in Balkh, Kabul and Badakhshan. \$ 800,000 per year. 17 expatriates and 65 local staff.
12. FSD (Foundation of Swiss Demining): registered and started working in 2008 in Afghanistan. Main office is in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and sub office is in Darwaz, Badakhshan. 47 local and 2 expatriates busy for demining projects. Funded by Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan regional integration programs. They got 1,200,000 Euro for one year.

8. Election Chair & vacant SC members

Mr. Haqbeen asked the floor to vote for the replacement of the vacant SC member from PU-AMI. The nominated persons were Mr. Keriakos Director of DRC and Mr. Sharifi Managing Director of SAB. Mr. Patrick from Caritas Germany, Justine Director and CCA counted the votes. Once the votes were counted, Mr. Keriakos got 34 and Mr. Sharifi got 32 votes. So, Mr. Keriakos replaced the vacant place of the SC.



Vice chairman, Helene Vidon: Mr. Haqbeen is not any more part of Asia Foundation. According to the statues of operation; the new Chair Person must be from a member organization but the status did not anticipated this possibility. The General assembly accepted to keep Mr. Haqbeen as the SC Chair person for another six month term by the maximum majority of the members' approval.

8. Open Debate: ACBAR future involvement according to current situation, ACBAR members' needed & expectation and last comment on Strategy

Mr. Haqbeen stated the importance of this agenda point as the national security responsibilities are handing over from international to Afghan army during the transition and there is the presidential election ahead and so forth. Therefore, he asked the floor to express their ideas and say their comments about the role of ACBAR in this situation and their expectation from it.

Discussions Summary:

- The negative effect of using the schools and clinics for the voting procedures in the coming presidential elections is something that NGOs are facing. The government from the other hand also ordered these facilities to help the process which will consequently harm the needy people in the clinics.

Ms. Justine emphasized that the complaint mechanism won't work efficiently unless NGOs are united and have one voice.

- NGOs are all in the favor of peaceful election but shouldn't be involved directly in this process. However, ACBAR has to advocate on increasing the right of NGO to indirectly interfere in some political subjects where the welfare of the community is concerned.
- Election is part of the democracy and of course the election staff naturally will expect places like schools and health facilities to use for this purpose. If NGOs really do not want the government to use these facilities, they have to be seriously proactive because there are some NGOs who are part of the politics as well and may hinder this request.
- The cooperation and consultation with the community is crucial for NGOs.
- There is some mismanagement among the governmental level in terms of the NGOs Law implementation. For example, some NGOs face difficulties in Provinces with the MoECON Departments or MoF Departments although they report every six months and sometimes must pay unnecessary taxes.
- The more NGOs deliver the programs of the government, the less the government makes their capacity in terms of activities.
- At the end, Ms. Justine requested all the members to actively attend the meetings being held in ACBAR every Month because ACBAR is working for its members and this organization needs members support. Members asked ACBAR to change the meetings time to the afternoon and except Sundays.

The GA adjourned at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, 30 October, 13.