



## Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development

### PRESS RELEASE

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#### Six ACTED employees killed in Afghanistan

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**Since January 2013, 32 NGOs' aid workers have been killed in Afghanistan. ACBAR calls upon all parties to the Afghan conflict to end all forms of violence against Humanitarian Actors – including NGOs and their employees.**

Kabul, the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2014,

ACBAR - the Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development - has been aggrieved to hear of the attack on ACTED staff in Faryab province (Afghanistan), resulting in the death of six national staff members as well as serious injuries for a seventh person part of the team. Our thoughts and condolences go to the families of our colleagues as well as to the whole ACTED team.

Once again, ACBAR wants to reiterate its **strong condemnation of any attack, intimidation, violence or threats against NGOs working in Afghanistan**. ACBAR appeals to all parties to the Afghan conflict to **respect the neutrality of NGOs as well as to allow humanitarian access to those in need**.

ACBAR would like to restate that humanitarian organizations are working impartially and independently to deliver much needed aid to the Afghan people who need it the most, irrespective of ethnic identity, religious or political beliefs.

In the current context, where Afghanistan still faces major challenges such as the high vulnerability to natural disasters, one of the worst levels of poverty in the world, an increase in crime and an intensification of a conflict that has been ongoing for more than 30 years, NGOs – both local and international – play, and will continue to play, a critical role in providing relief and development aid to people in need, in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, often in areas where other service providers have limited or no access.

Any attack, intimidation, violence or threat against NGO staff, interests, beneficiaries or assets will ultimately result in delays in aid implementation, which negatively impacts the welfare of the people of Afghanistan – particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

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**Notes for Editors**

- **ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development**, is an Afghan independent body bringing together 123 national and international NGOs working in Afghanistan and abiding by the humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and humanity. As the collective voice of NGOs operating in Afghanistan, ACBAR's activities have focused heavily on providing information to its members / the aid community, coordination of activities at the national / regional levels, and advocacy on issues affecting the work of its members. <http://www.acbar.org>
- **ACTED:** French NGO ACTED has intervened since 1993 on the major humanitarian crises throughout the world, in order to assist the vulnerable populations with emergency relief interventions, reconstruction projects and development programmes in 35 countries. Today, 4,000 staff are dedicated to responding to emergencies worldwide, supporting recovery and rehabilitation, and working towards sustainable development. ACTED has been committed to populations in Afghanistan since 1993. More information on the website: [www.acted.org/en](http://www.acted.org/en)
- **Humanitarian Principles**

Humanity: Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of Humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.

Neutrality: Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Impartiality: Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

Independence: Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

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