



Afghanistan Civil Society Forum- organization (ACSFo)

**Annual Narrative Report To SDC
2009**

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A note of thanks

Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) is pleased to release this report as a gratitude to the generous core support of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC). This report covers activities made possible with SDC support in the year 2009. Like the previous years, ACSFo was granted and honoured by the SDC to serve its members, partners, and the Afghans in general through its programmes and projects. The organization has been able to utilize this core support in further project development and fundraising within its' strategic programming, development and expansion.

The year 2009 has been one of the challenging years for the Afghan civil society actors. ACSFo member and partners continued working on thematic areas of concern for civil society throughout the country. Thus, the focus within the year 2009 had been mainly in the six thematic areas of coordination and networking; Advocacy, Capacity Building, Civic Education, Research and Good Governance. Besides they have also struggled to gain recognition and find out their place within the communities all over the country.

ACSFo humbly expresses its gratitude to SDC for the sincere support extended since the establishment of the organization. We also avail the opportunity to thank all other donors who have contributed to either core or projects and programs of the organization. The ACSFo staff also avail the opportunity to renew its commitment in serving Afghans and Afghanistan in the future.

Our gratitude to the Board of Directors, members and partners of ACSFo for committed work and dedications throughout the projects in 2009 and beyond. Our success was mainly dependent to the dedicated and hard working staff of ACSFo. I would hereby appreciate and acknowledge the staff members faith, dedications and commitments towards ACSFo.

Aziz Rafiee
Executive Director
Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization
Kabul, Afghanistan

INTRODUCTION

The Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) was developed as a partnership between Afghan civil society actors and swisspeace at the request of 76 participants of the first Afghan Civil Society Conference in Bad Honnef, Germany (29 November – 2 December 2001). This conference was facilitated by swisspeace parallel to the meeting of political representatives organized by the UN in the Petersburg near Bonn. The goal of the conference was to involve Afghan civil society in the peace and reconstruction process of Afghanistan in order to achieve a more sustainable post-conflict reconstruction. The conference, inter alia, provided a foundation for a new understanding of the role of civil society in the post-Taliban Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization began its activities at the beginning of February 2002 and the Kabul office was opened two months later in May 2002.

The Bonn Conference provided an initial peace building and state-building framework for Afghanistan. It provided for establishing a transitional government leading to elections for a broad-based, gender-sensitive, multi-ethnic and fully-represented government. The Loya Jirga 2002 leading to the Transitional Government was the first major step towards providing legitimacy to the Afghanistan government. The signing of the Afghanistan Constitution at the end of the Constitutional Loya Jirga in January 2004, presidential elections on 9 October 2004 and the parliamentary elections in September 2005 were the subsequent milestones. In reconstruction and development, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan initiated National Solidarity Programme and Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Aiming to facilitate the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, these programmes constituted the core of Afghan government's development endeavours.

ACSFo's scope of activities covers coordination and networking, civic education, advocacy, media, capacity building, peace building, research and consultations. In the early days of its establishment, ACSFo's focus was mainly on coordination and civic education. During 2002 – 2005, ACSFo with its partner organizations successfully implemented three nationwide civic education projects on constitution-making process, presidential elections, and parliamentary elections, educating over 11 million Afghans on elections. Meanwhile, since 2002 ACSFo has published 55 editions of Jamea-e-Madani (civil society) monthly. In intellectual circles, Jamea-e-Madani is considered as one of the most acclaimed magazine in issues pertaining to civil society. In addition, the civic education section has published booklets and training manuals on democracy, Afghan parliament, women's rights, citizen rights and Afghanistan constitution.

ADVOCACY SECTION:

Introduction/Background:

The advocacy section of ACSFo was established in March 2006. The purpose of establishing as a separate section was to focus on advocating for the rights of persons with disability, youths, women and children and environmental protection. Besides, it is involved in many other advocacy activities ranging from policy advocacy, freedom of speech, advocacy for the rights of journalists to advocacy campaigns. The ultimate goal of advocacy section is to influence policies for the benefit of the marginalized Afghans. Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) in its overall goal and objectives is committed to support advocacy activities all over Afghanistan. As advocacy is one of the most important civil society activities, ACSFo is striving to promote the advocacy activities and capacities of other organizations. The importance of advocacy activities through civil society is as follows:

1. In all modern democratic governments, there is a national assembly composed of directly elected representatives of people. Their job is to guarantee the rights of the people they represent in legislative processes and to monitor the enforcement of the law. As the parliament constitutes the legislative branch of the state it hardly reaches to the grassroots that is why the voices of the poor and marginalized people cannot be heard by the policy makers.
2. Civil society constitutes the only link between the people and the government. Civil society takes the voices of deprived and marginalized people to the policy makers through advocacy activities. Advocating for citizens' rights is one of the main responsibilities of civil society.

The advocacy section of ACSFo has established four advocacy committees so far as follows:

1. Advocacy committee for person with disability (ACPD)
2. Environment Protection Advocacy committee (EPAC),
3. Afghan Youth Advocacy Committee,
4. Economic Literacy and Budget Analysis Group (ELBAG) in Kabul, and
5. Regional advocacy committee in Bamyan, Nangarhar, Gardez and Balkh provinces.

Advocacy Committees:

Regional Advocacy Committees (RACs)

As the effectiveness of advocacy activities relies on a collective commitment which requires close coordination between civic organizations therefore ACSFo intends to promote the advocacy spirit among interested Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan. ACSFo's Advocacy section in close cooperation with Bamyan regional office has established a new regional advocacy committee with ten members from different social and cultural organizations and entities in November 2009 in the mentioned province. This is an additional activity to the present ACSFo regional Advocacy Committees in Gardez, Nangarhar and Balkh provinces. It is planned further strengthen these regional advocacy committees in the mentioned provinces in the near future.

Meanwhile, ACSFo is planning to establish a national network of advocacy committees at country level to launch strong advocacy campaigns and advocate for the rights of marginalized and deprived people. This process not only strengthen further the coordination and cooperation amongst the advocacy driven organizations at all provinces of Afghanistan but also serve in welfare of the society.

Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disability (ACPD)

The idea to begin advocacy activity on the issue of persons with disability and establish the Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disability (ACPD) emerged in 2005, but took off around March/April 2006. The overall goal of the ACPD is to "integrate persons with disability in the society and ensure the rights and equality of persons with disability along with other Afghan citizens." The following issues constitute its objectives:

- To make a better coordination among all national and international organization working for disability in Afghanistan for brining positive changes in laws and policies concerning persons with disability
- To mainstream the principle of “Improving lives of Persons with disabilities” in all endeavours of the Government

The member organizations of ACPD include the Afghanistan National Association for the Deaf (ANAD), Afghanistan National Association for the Blinds (ANAB), Community Centre for the Disabled (CCD), National Association of Disabled Women of Afghanistan (NADWA), Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), Afghanistan Science Academy (ASA), Handicap International (HI), Afghanistan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA), Afghan Legal Association (ALA), Afghan Disabled Union (ADU), National Program for Assistance of Disabled (NPAD) and United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA).

The Advocacy Committee bases its work on Afghanistan constitution’s Article 53rd, Afghanistan Compact –by end-2010, increased assistance will be provided to meet the special needs of all disabled people, including their integration in society through opportunities for education and gainful employment” - and Social Protection sector of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy which states: “Government will create a barrier-free society for all, based on the principles of participation, integration and the equalization of opportunities, as defined by the United Nations. In doing so, the government of Afghanistan gives priority to enabling disabled people to take charge of their lives by removing barriers that deter them from full participation in society While continuing to honour the sacrifices that the war-disabled have made for Afghanistan, the Government will expand its focus to address the needs of other disabled population as well.”

Environment Protection Advocacy Committee (EPAC)

On August 31, 2006 ACSFo, within its structure, established the Environment Protection Advocacy Committee (EPAC) with the participation of governmental entities’ representatives such as Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Afghanistan Science Academy, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Geology from Kabul University, Faculty of Natural Science from Education University and the National Environment Protection Agency as well as Non-Governmental Organization such as De-mining organizations, United Nations Environment Protection and World Bank.

Based on the second entry of seventh article of environment law, ACSFo takes the environmental protection as an important mission for civil society.

The main objective for the establishment of the committee is to seek effective ways of using the natural resources such as grazing lands, forests, wild lives, ecosystem of dry and water areas, natural areas, water, soil and air as well as to support and improve the environmental protection spirit in the general education and higher education institutions. Also in order to support the research and studies about the problems of ecology, extinction of animals and plants, depletion of Ozone layer, biosphere global warming, moreover to attract attention and cooperation of national and international organization for the betterment of Afghanistan’s environment.

Economic Literacy and Budget Analysis Group (ELBAG)

Economic literacy and budget analysis (ELBA) is a tool that enables people to understand planning and budgeting processes at all levels and mobilizes people to act on the findings and understanding they have after analyzing the budget. With ELBA the focus is to see how planners allocate and spend the money meant for the welfare of the poor and excluded. ELBA has been successfully used by civil society actors in different countries to track the national and local budgets and hold the donors and government accountable on the money spent on various programmes aimed at the welfare of the citizens. Action Aid Afghanistan with financial support of the European Commission and in partnership with Afghanistan parliament (upper and lower houses), All Afghan Women Union, Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), Sanayee Development Organization (SDO), Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Counterpart International, Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) and individual media correspondents has taken the initiative of Economic Literacy and budget analysis.

Afghan Youth Advocacy Committee (AYAC)

The Afghan Youth Advocacy Committee (AYAC) was re-established in November 2008. The main objective behind the re-establishment of the Afghan Youth Advocacy Committee (AYAC) was to encourage youth’s active participation in the political, economic and reconstruction processes of the country. AYAC is formed of male and female driven organizations.

Main Activities and Achievements in Advocacy

Advocacy activities update has been constantly publicized via websites, print and multi-media. The committee, by its advocacy work, has kept calling on the government to ensure that all ministries “mainstream the principle of “Improving Lives of Persons with Disabilities” in all their mechanisms, rules, regulations, policies and strategies.” This was widely distributed among civil society organizations, ministries, media, human rights organizations, etc.

The first official reaction to this statement came from the Ministry for Women’s Affairs, which in a letter sent to all of its offices throughout the country committed to ensuring that 5% of their ministry staff came from the ranks of persons with disabilities. This was followed by a statement by the Minister of Education in a press conference, and later the issue was raised in a Cabinet meeting. Due to this initial positive reception, the ground was prepared for further effective steps to be taken ahead to protect rights of persons with disability.

Media Activities Related to Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disability:

In the field of media the following activities have been done:

Name of the Event	Subject/Topic of the Event	Date	Place
Press Release sent to all media	Universal action-week as well as application of land mine convention.	3rd Week of February	ACSFo
Press conference	Observance of land mine convention, convention on cluster munitions ban and approval of disability law by parliament.	2nd Week of March 2009	ACSFo
Campaign	Decreasing of violence against women and sexual abuse of children.	2nd and 3rd Week of June	Kabul
Press conference and resolution	Decreasing of violence against women and sexual abuse of children,	4th Week of June	Press Hall of Ministry of Culture and Information

Celebration	Disabled international day	13th December	Kabul Takhnik Sanawi/
Press conference with cooperation of Disabled Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG)	Evolution of deputy of martyred and disabled to ministry of martyred and disabled.	December	Setara Hotel

Lobbying

The advocacy section along with ACPD arranged a meeting in July with Mr. Karzai, the president, on endorsement of national disability law, which has been delayed for long, joining Afghanistan with International convention on disability rights as well as international convention on ban of cluster mines and establishing a consultation post for disabled in presidential palace. As the result the president showed his commitment to allocate 1.5 % of national revenue for the welfare of disabled.

The ACPD meeting on 6th October with Mr. Yonus Qanoni, Speaker of Lower House of Parliament, in which the issue of approval of national disability law for the second time due to its rejection by president, striving for joining Afghanistan with international convention on disability rights as well as international convention on ban of cluster mine is considerable. He, besides, mentioning the lack of coordination between parliament and government and weakness of Ministries as of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled due to lack of performances on specifying and allocating budget for disabled, showed his will for the follow-up and approval of the law and conventions.

The ACPD constructive meeting on 24 November with Mr. Hazrat Sebghatullah Mujaddadi, Speaker of Lower House of Parliament, is also very significant. The topics under discussion were the strive of Upper House of Parliament for approval of national disability law, which was rejected by president, joining Afghanistan with international convention on disability rights as well as international convention on ban of cluster mine, discussion with president on establishing an independent directorate for martyred and disabled and considering the financial privileges for descendents of martyred and disabled. Mr. Mujaddadi showed the interest to follow-up the topics through contacting Mr. Yonus Qanoni and Mr. Hamid Karzai.

Similarly, ACPD arranged a meeting in February with commission on public welfare of lower house of the Parliament to follow-up and lobby for the approval of national disability law. This meeting was also productive and convinced the commission members to lobby for approval of the disability law.

Two other important meetings were arranged with Mr. Asim, the Head of Commission on Martyred and Disabled. The topic of the first meeting which was arranged in October was the approval of national disability law by parliament and support of commission on martyred and disabled. While the topics of the second meeting, which was held after the approval of national disability law in 4th week of December, was support of disabled commission of lower house for joining Afghanistan with international conventions and supporting the three candidates nominated by ACPD members for the ministry of martyred. As the result of the meeting he showed his support for approval of international conventions as well as lobbying inside the parliaments for ACPD candidates; if proposed by president.



Meetings with Parliamentarians and Deputy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The advocacy section besides the above mentioned lobby activities arranged and conducted 12 monthly and 18 called meetings of ACPD in ACSFo, AIHRC and Community Centre for Disabled (CCD) during this reporting period on the bellow topics:

- Convening conference and round table on land mine convention, convention on cluster munitions ban, delay in approval of disability law and universal action-week for implementation of land mine convention
- Convening a commemoration ceremony for blessed Dr. Sharar- member of ACPD
- Membership of new entities, further procedure of international conventions on disability, choosing a qualified person for ministry of martyred and disabled as well as writing a letter to president and proposing three people as nominees for martyred and disabled ministry (Mr. Tawana, a high ranking authority in MoLSAMD, Mr. Nezami, Director of CCD, as well as Mr. Umara Khan, Director of DAO, and sending the copy of them to parliament and UNAMA. This letter was then submitted to relevant organs.
- Approval of national disability law, international conventions on disability rights, ban of cluster mines, awareness on disability issues, developing action plan for ACPD for the year 2009, development and finalization of ACPD working strategy, membership conditions and getting new members for committee
- 3rd December celebration (disabled international day)

Regarding the issues of disability a meeting was held with deputy of foreign affairs on the issue of supporting and paving the way for approval of national disability law and international conventions on disability rights and bun of cluster mines. He showed his interest to follow-up the disability law through holding meetings with members of parliaments.

The section also attended a meeting in Handicap International and Counterpart International to review the guideline for Afghan women with disabilities and yearly meetings of Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG), which were convened on various disability issues by government, NGOs, DPOs on national disability law, employment, economic reintegration, accessibility, convention on rights of persons with disability, cluster munitions, mine ban convention, advocacy, awareness on disability issues, update by government as well as by stakeholders in the field of disability. Convening commemoration ceremony on 4 June for blessed Dr. Sharar – member of ACPD committee – finalization of ACPD annual action plan for the year 2009, convening two-day long ACPD strategy development workshop in which some articles of strategy were amended and the strategy was finalized, cooperation with Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) on behalf of ACSFo, partner and member organizations as well as developing security and casualty of civilian report are also worth to be mentioned.

The other advocacy related activities during this reporting period are as follow:

Name and Number of Event	Topics of Event	Place	Time
Two Meetings	Consultation working group, review and draft of MoLSAMD 1388 (2009 -2010) annual plan of activities,	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled and its disability support units	January
Meeting with ministers	Gender Budgeting Panel Discussion and Gender Responsive budget issues.	Ministries of Afghan Government	January and February
Meeting	Debate project	OSI	January
Two day-long workshop	Afghanistan National Disability Action Plan, (ANDAP)	Development and Ability Organization (DAO)	January
Five Meetings	Gender working group, preparation for celebrating women international day, developing presentation on gender part to all ACSFo's members.	Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFo)	February and March
Three-day long workshop	Integration of persons with disabilities in Socio-economic development – 3rd national disability workshop.	Kabul	March
Meeting	Review of guideline for Afghan women with disabilities.	Handicap International	March
Meeting	Building strong cooperation between parliament and civil society organizations.	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	March
Consultation Meeting	Administrative reform related issues.	World Bank	April
Meeting	Youth-related awareness raising programs	Young Leader Forum (FES)	April
One day-long workshop	Strategy development	SDC	April
Three-day long training	Advocacy and its concept.	Counterpart International (CPI)	May
Meeting	Aid efficiency in Afghanistan.	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)	May
Consultation meeting	Aid efficiency research project in Afghanistan.	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)	June
One-day training	Security sector oversight and role of civil society.	Kabul	4th week of June
Meeting	Advocacy for prohibition of children sexual abuse and women rights	Afghan Women Network (AWN)	4th week of June
Meeting	Advocacy for women rights.	Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)	July
Three-day long training	Rights of persons with disability.	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)	July
Meeting with social	Elections and its challenges.	ACSFo	August

activists and university professors			
One day-long workshop	Gender and disability issues.	Handicap International (HI)	August
Two day-long training	Advocacy	AWEC	September
Three Meetings with partner organizations	Process of elections, challenges and the results of elections and developing a statement for press conference.	ACSFo	September and October
Meeting, workshop and press conference in Oxfam and Darula Aman Palace	Launching cost of war report.	Oxfam	October
Meeting with university professors and political analysts	Current political situation and its way of movement".	ACSFo	November
Meeting	Delaying result of presidential and district council elections and its going to the second round, decreasing ten sets to eight seats for women in provincial councils and informal justice system.	AWN	November
Inauguration ceremony	Disabled physical access project.	women garden launched by ALSO	November
Two day long training	Advocacy capacity building training	Oxfam Novib	4th week of November
Four board meetings	Development and finalization of HR/Admin policy and survey proposal for strengthening relations between provincial councils and people.	HRRAC	November and December
Training	Mechanism of convening a press conference.	Medio Tek	December
Four Meetings	Disabled international day celebration, mechanism and components of celebration.	Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFo)	December

Meanwhile the section has prepared and submitted the following reports and policy paper to concerned organizations:

- Research report on presidential elections which was submitted to CSHRN before the presidential and provincial council elections in August.
- Six months activity report (April – September 2009) which was submitted to management section in October.
- Core funding activity report for Swiss Agency to Development Cooperation (SDC) for the period covering the February – June 2009 and submitted to management section in September 2009.
- Two reports on press conferences – press conference on martyrdom of Sultan Ahmad Munadi and other journalists and decline of women seats in provincial councils – was submitted to civic education section for publication in Jamae-e-Madani monthly as well as uploaded in web site of ACSFo in October and November.

- The civil society development conference report was written and submitted to civic education section for publication in magazine and uploading in the web site of ACSFo in December.
- The Civil Society Development conference report in 14 pages along with conference findings were prepared and submitted to donor organization – HBS – at the end of December.

EPAC Activities:

EPAC held 7 periodical advocacy committee meetings and 4 other meetings during the year 2009 on the issues of protecting ecosystem from pollutions including (air, earth, water and etc.) as well as the issues of contamination of underground water and its solutions. Moreover, a report was prepared on "usage of underground water and absorbing wells" by its members; national environment protection law was provided to all EPAC members and finally a resolution on control of air pollution was developed and sent to media.

ELBAG Activities

The ELBAG members held 10 advocacy meetings that focused on accountability and transparency issues and as well as prepared a report on agro sector and further development of this sector in the country. A joint effort was made with OSI informal initiative of EITI advocacy for transparency and accountability. This initiative will continue in supporting the civil society and ACSFo further advocacy programs.

AYAC Activities:

In regard to AYAC, the advocacy section in addition to monthly meetings, arranged five preparatory meetings with AYAC members in ACSFo on finalizing AYAC working strategy, collecting membership documents from new members, providing participants list, developing agenda and slogans for convening a conference on declaration of committee establishment, arranging peace building training to AYAC members and effective participation of youth in development of the country. The section also attended meetings in Counterpart International and NIC on AYAC on its activities as well as the introduction of two focal points for Ghazni and Badakhshan provinces. Convening AYAC establishment conference and declaration of a resolution on youth political, social and cultural participation and conducting two-day long peace building training to AYAC members during this reporting period is also considerable.

Major Workshops and Conferences:

ACSFo advocacy section, besides their thematic working areas, was involved in other outstanding workshops and conferences as well.

1. Celebrating the woman's international day on 8th March in Loya Jirga tent with the cooperation of AIHRC and other civil society organizations in which the expenditure of invitation cards, their distribution and developing mottos was ACSFo's responsibility which is worth mentioning.
2. Two preparatory meetings for convening a press conference and developing a concise press statement were arranged with media, journalist union as well as representatives of CSOs so as to hold a press conference. It is worth mentioning that the invitation letter was published through 3 daily newspapers; the 8 am, Arman and Wisa.. The press conference was arranged on 16 September in ACSFo on martyrdom of Sultan Ahmad Munadi, the journalist killed in Qundoz during rescue oppression, and other martyred journalists during the year 2009. The press statement included very precise and logical wills from government of Afghanistan and British embassy. A large number of civil society activists, media representatives as well as journalists attended the conference. The conference was broadly broadcasted by mass media.
3. The second press conference was held on 7 October in ACSFo on decline of women seats in provincial councils, in which a large number of women activists attended. The messages of the conference were broadly broadcasted by media.

4. The third conference was held on 14 October in ACSFo on status of presidential and provincial councils' elections. This conference was coordinated by ACSFo and representatives of civil society organizations and it focused on transparency of elections and observance of constitution and other enforced laws. This conference as well as broadcasted by media broadly.



Press Conference on Martyrdom of Sultan Ahmad Munadi, the Journalist

5. A two-day long national workshop with the cooperation of CSOs as well as SCA was held in SCA compound in Kabul on 24 – 25 January 2009. The representatives of CSOs attended the workshop from across Afghanistan. This workshop paved the way for drafting the first draft of strategy paper for civil society in Afghanistan.



Civil Society Development National Workshop

6. Following the CSD workshop and drafting the first strategy paper, convening a national conference to develop and finalize the draft working strategy paper for civil society in Afghanistan, was deemed necessary. A large number of civil society organizations as well as international organizations which include Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSF0), Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Afghan Women Network (AWN), Human Rights Research & Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB), Agency Coordination Body for Afghanistan (ACBAR), Foundation for Culture and Civil Society (FCCS), Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN), South Western Afghanistan and Blochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC), HEINRICH BOLL STIFTUNG (HBS), Counterpart International (CPI), Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) and Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) contributed to convening of the conference and organizing, oversight, facilitation, reporting, media and invitation committees were established for the whole management and organization of the conference. In this regard a series of meeting was held with committees and management of ACSFo – six meetings with oversight, organizing and other committees, two meetings with facilitation and reporting committees as well as two meetings with management of ACSFo on the conference preparation, participants list, invitation mechanism, agenda, speakers, announcers, slogans, banners, topics of working groups, management, organization and facilitation of the conference and group work in

ACSFo in the months of October, November and December. After all hard working and cooperation and coordination among involved entities the CSD conference was held in Kabul on 14 -15 December 2009 to finalize the draft working strategy for civil society in Afghanistan. The participation, arrangement and outputs of the conference were great. 199 active and resource persons from across Afghanistan attended the conference. The agenda of the conference included speeches by CSOs and government representatives, zonal presentations on status, activities and challenges ahead of civil society, group work, panel constitution and question and answer. The group work topics included:

- Coordination and participation
- Advocacy, research and public awareness
- Capacity building and organizational development
- Monitoring and evaluation, transparency and accountability
- Disaster management, security, peace and conflict resolution
- Good governance and rule of law
- Human rights, humanitarian law and gender
- Vision, mission, goal and objectives of civil society organizations

More importantly, the findings of civil society development conference – group work results, priorities listed by participants and definitions presented by conference participants and texts of speeches - were compiled, synthesized, further developed and translated into English for utilizing and incorporating them into draft strategy paper.



Civil Society Development Conference

Women Policy Paper Project:

The women policy paper which was a research project started in early September and ended in December 2009. The data and information for developing women policy paper were collected through applying questionnaire and interviewing with prominent Afghan women and parliamentarian women as well as collecting women-related data and statistics from education, higher education, public health and women affairs ministries. This policy paper included the historical back ground of women situation, eight years planning and achievements for institutionalizing humanitarian values, ground realities including miseries and sufferings, review of women rights from a human rights perspective, conclusion and recommendations. The recommendation part included specific and general recommendations. It is worth mentioning that the 1st draft of women policy paper was prepared by advocacy section. However, it was modified and consolidated by management section and a 14 page-long women policy paper was then submitted to HBS in the 1st week of January 2010.

ACSFo Advocacy Achievements:

- Arranging meeting with President Hamid Karzai on endorsement of national disability law, which has been delayed for long, joining Afghanistan with International convention on disability rights as well as international convention on ban of cluster mines and establishing a consultation post for disabled in presidential

administration is mentionable. This meeting concluded to the president's commitment on allocating 1.5 % of national annual revenue for the welfare of disabled.

- Meeting with Mr. Yonus Qanoni, Speaker of Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Asim, the head of commission on martyred and disabled of lower house and commission on public welfare of lower house on approval of national disability law for the second time due to its rejection by president, striving for joining Afghanistan with international convention on disability rights as well as international convention on ban of cluster mine which concluded to their commitment to follow up the mentioned topics.
- Arranging a meeting with Mr. Hazrat Sebghatullah Mujaddadi, Speaker of Lower House of Parliament, on approval of national disability law, which was rejected by president, joining Afghanistan with international convention on disability rights as well as international convention on ban of cluster mine, discussion with president on establishing an independent directorate for martyred and disabled and considering the financial privileges for descendents of martyred and disabled which concluded to his commitment to contact Mr. Yonus Qanoni and Mr. Hamid Karzai is the other achievement.
- Meeting held with deputy of foreign affairs on the issue of supporting and paving the way for approval of national disability law and international conventions on disability rights and bun of cluster mines, which resulted to his commitment for follow-up of the issue
- Approval of National disability law for persons with disability by parliament on 19 December.
- Holding three press conferences on martyrdom of Sultan Ahmad Munadi, the journalist killed in Qundoz during rescue oppressions, and other martyred journalists during the year 2009, decline of women seats in provincial councils and status of presidential and provincial councils' elections in ACSFo, which voiced up the existed problems and challenges ahead of Afghan citizens and asked the attention, research, assessment and efforts of the relevant organs as well as choosing the right and useful solutions by them is the other great achievement.
- Review and amendment of The ACPD strategy.
- Publication of disability related topics and issues in the country's print media.
- Preparation of a draft plan for protection of underground water by Ecology experts
- Launching "Transparency and Accountability Report on Agro Sector".
- Convening AYAC conference on declaration of committee establishment as well as launching a resolution on youth participation in development of the country.
- Convening three press conferences on martyrdom of journalists, decline of women seats in provincial councils and status of presidential and provincial councils' elections with media community and other civil society organizations in September and October.
- Finalization of AYAC working strategy.
- Building the capacity and raising the awareness of AYAC members on peace and peace building concepts.
- As the result of advocacy activities and meetings with social and human rights activists a commission under the direct guidance of the 1st Vice President – Mr. Ahmad Zia Masoud – was formed to follow-up the children's sexual abuse and decrease of violence against women in Afghanistan.
- Finalizing the strategy of Anti-sexual abuse of children and elimination of violence against women with the cooperation of partners.
- Collecting and arranging data and materials through conducting a two-day long National Workshop in SCA in January on Strategy Development for Civil Society in Afghanistan.
- Developing the first draft of National Working Strategy for civil society in Afghanistan.

- Convening the two-day long "Conference on Development and Finalization of National working Strategy for Civil Society in Afghanistan" in December.
- Collecting the data, information as well as views of social and civil society activists from across the country for development and finalization of national working strategy during the two days of CSD conference
- Celebrating the Women's International Day
- Celebrating the Disabled International Day

Lessons Learnt:

Advocacy is almost a new topic in Afghanistan. People have less advocacy knowledge and skills. Majority of them do not know what the concept of advocacy is, what the role and importance of advocacy are and how the advocates play active role in establishing, amending and application of policies, laws and strategies.

The advocacy section along with "Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disability" as well Afghan Youths Advocacy Committee and Environment Protection Advocacy Committee have been thoroughly busy with advocacy activities, lobby and campaigns. These committees through utilizing advocacy tools have had lots of achievements so far in terms of contribution in drafting, amending and changing the laws and policies. The "Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law, Environment Protection Law, National Disability Law, Media Law and Mines Law are the bright examples where the civil society organizations and advocacy committees whether contributed in the 1st drafting or bringing amendment and lobbying for their approval.

In an overall assessment from the advocacy activities done so far and a glance to advocacy achievements it is understood that more systematic advocacy is needed. These sorts of activities are less effective unless getting advocacy knowledge, skills, methodology, using effective tools of advocacy and making coalitions.

It is quite obvious that advocacy activities and initiatives face many different challenges in the society. However, the level of challenges in the post-conflict countries is much more compared to peaceful countries. In Afghanistan one of the biggest challenges ahead of advocacy activities is lack of security. During the year 2009 the advocacy section witnessed many security challenges which prohibited advocacy activities and events such as campaign, conferences, meetings and workshops. Lack of knowledge and awareness of people on concept of advocacy, advocacy methodology and its role and importance is the other great challenge which in turn causes the people further deprivation from their rights and colourless participation in advocacy campaigns and advocacy activities. In regard to advocacy section, lack of "Environment Protection Advocacy Committee and Afghan Youths Advocacy Committee" members' participation and activeness in meetings and other advocacy events due to their engagement in their offices is mentionable. Creation of a gap in activities of advocacy section during the year 2009 due to employment fluctuation and appointment of new staff was another challenge. Delay in follow-up of national disability law approval due to presidential and provincial councils' elections and engagement of some members of parliament in elections campaigns was the other challenge during this reporting period.

CIVIC EDUCATION SECTION

Introduction:

In 2003, the Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) began its Civic Education work by supporting the Afghan Constitution Commission in their public outreach for the constitution-making process. Between May and July 2003, ACSFo worked through a consortium of 13 Afghan NGOs and educated a total of 1809 community leaders (251 women) coming from all districts across Afghanistan. In a special women-outreach programme in conjunction with 11 women's NGOs, an additional 1074 women were educated in 15 provinces (Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Paktya, Paktika, Parwan, Samangan, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Zabul). In an independent evaluation it was estimated that through this decentralized process (community leaders educated their communities) about 10-15% of the Afghan population was reached.

Based on this experience, ACSFo continued her activities in the field of civic education. In collaboration with the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), one of the official partners of the Afghan Government (Joint Electoral Management Body/JEMB which includes government and UN employees) in providing civic education on voter registration and elections, ACSFo started its work with six partner organizations in the 7 urban centres outside Kabul in November 2003 (IFES covered Kabul) and reached a total of 145,466 (43% women) during a 3 months period. By March 2004, ACSFo's network of partner organizations had expanded to 15, with 412 civic educators on the ground (137 women) covering 28 provinces. IFES worked in the 5 provinces outside Kabul. Between March and September 2004, ACSFo network educated over 1.7 million individuals (31% women) about the voter registration and election process for the presidential elections.

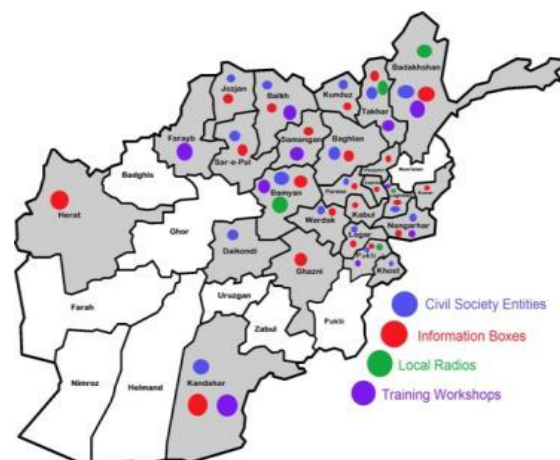
In 2005, ACSFo again organized a nation-wide civic education campaign before the parliamentary elections and reached more than 11 million people in 28 provinces of the country via its network of 15 partner organizations. In 2006, the Civic Education section focused on the implementation of two projects: "Civic Education Resource Centre" and "Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media". In 2007, the Civic Education section carried out the implementation of the same two projects: The second phase of "Civic Education Resource Centre" and the progress of three year granted Oxfam NOVIB project (Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media). In 2008, the Civic Education section focused on the implementation of last of the three year granted Oxfam NOVIB project (Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media), once again in September 2009 the NOVIB project was extended for the period of 8.5 months. Beside this project, in 2009 civic education department implemented two other important projects (Civic Education on Presidential Election funded by The Asia Foundation and Civic Education for Presidential and Provincial Council Elections funded by UNDP) the two projects delivered civic education and elections messages for the people to participate in the democratic processes (through Face to Face Sessions, Radio Programs and On the Spot Briefings).

Civic Education Projects:

Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media

The "Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media" project was a three years project (May 2006 to April 2009) funded by OXFAM-NOVIB and implemented by ACSFo. The aim of the project was to create a well-informed and proactive citizenship responsibility particularly in rural areas where information and access to information is limited.

The project proved in terms of the expansion of the civil society network in provinces.



The project was implemented in the provinces of (Badakhshan, Konar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Khost, Paktia, Logar, Ghanzni, Kandahar, Daikondi, Wardak, Parwan, Kapisa, Kabul, Panjshir, Baghlan, Bamyan, Samangan, Kondoz, Balkh, Jowzjan, Sar-e-pul, Faryab, Herat and Takhar).

The project played a major role in the promotion and explanation of civil society's role in strengthening democracy. Democratic governments and movements find their legality via peoples' votes and active participation. Well-informed citizens who participate in the socio-political process lead a country towards stable democracy. Therefore, it was focused to provide information to remote areas, where people have limited access to information.

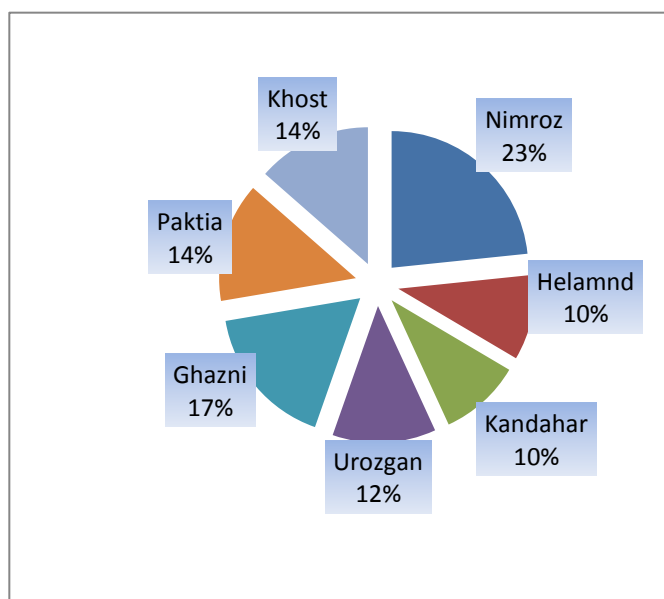
Following main activities were done:

- Information boxes were renewed in 16 provinces
- Total of 36 trainings conducted in the 6 provinces with topics such as parliament, women rights, citizen's rights and democracy
- Radio programmes have been broadcasted with the title (Voice of civil society) in the four targeted provinces (Badakhshan, Laghman, Paktia, Bamyan)
- A Total of 4 editions of the magazine was printed and distributed in the project targeted provinces with approximately 100 topics related to Civil society concept in Pashto and Dari languages

Under the above project Resource Centre, Internet Access Centre and website carried out following activities

- Total of 25 individuals got RC membership (3 female)
- Total of 303 used the library (43 female)
- Total of 875 individuals used the internet access centre (65 female)
- Total of 143 pieces were uploaded on Dari website which included (Articles, book intro, documents, faces introduction, magazine, literature, pen staff bio, poems, audio poems, reports and pictures)
- Total of 17 pieces were uploaded on Pashto website which included (Articles, magazine and pictures)
- Total of 24 pieces were uploaded on English website which included Reports and pictures.

Following shows election awareness sessions in the targeted provinces



Civic Education on Presidential Election

The project was an essential project for the awareness of people regarding the elections and civic education in Afghanistan.

The project included three main activities of on the spot briefings, face to face sessions and radio programmes through which the related messages were delivered to people. The project was implemented in the provinces of (Paktia, Khost, Ghazni, Urozgan, Kandahar, Nimroz and Helmand) from 6th May to 19th August 2009 funded by Asia Foundation.

The overall goal of the project was to raise people's awareness for participation in the Presidential Elections 2009 and democratic processes", the project was designed to focus on the importance and implications of a transparent election, explaining the benefit of voting within democratic processes, encouraging and motivating people to participate in the election. In addition to above mentioned points, for better implementation of project and for having effective impact the following important approaches were considered, providing accurate, culturally sensitive and timely information to the potential Afghan voters.

- Promoting among the general Afghan population a positive social attitude towards community involvement and electoral democracy with an understanding of the critical link between voting and representation.
- Encouraging the participation of Afghans in the electoral process particularly women, minorities and marginalized groups.
- Encouraging community stakeholders and other influential people to convey messages to members of their community (multiplier effect)

Main activities:

- Conducted one week ToT for the lead trainers, field coordinators and radio representatives???
- Flipcharts containing messages and pictures regarding the election were designed and printed.
- Total of 25 flipcharts were delivered to all targeted provinces to be used as training tool for the trainings.
- Total of 119350 election brochures were designed, printed and distributed in the targeted provinces.
- Produced 90 radio programmes regarding elections, history of elections, democracy, citizen rights and civil society
- Total of 90 radio programmes were broadcasted and rebroadcasted from 7 local radio stations.
- Total of 848 'on the spot briefings' conducted in 7 targeted provinces.
- Total of 3468 face to face sessions conducted in 7 targeted provinces.

UN Elect Radio Project (Civic Education on Presidential and Provincial Council Election)

Today in Afghanistan radio is the main source of news information for most Afghans due to the destruction of printing presses by wars, the low literacy rate, the economic infeasibility of television and the poor infrastructure of the country. According to a survey carried out by the Afghan Media Resource Centre, over 85% of Afghan men have a radio in working order.

Radio became a very popular means of gathering information and having access to entertainment in the 1970s. After the political coup in 1973 and throughout president Daoud's time in office, many radio broadcasts were censored, and this heavy censorship continued throughout the Soviet occupation. People began to distrust radio broadcasts, and came to regard the radio as a means for the government to disseminate false information and to broadcast government propaganda. During this time, Afghans turned increasingly to the BBC radio broadcasts, Voice of America, Radio Free Afghanistan and other international stations.

Since the end of the Taliban regime, several radio stations have sprung up in Kabul and provinces.



Radio, in contrast to print media, is a very effective method of reaching out to a much wider audience, and in more remote, less accessible areas.

ACSFo radio program helped to raise awareness among the general Afghan population (and not simply to a selected readership) about the importance of Presidential Elections and civil society for strengthening and stabilizing Afghanistan, through broadcasting radio programmes on elections and civic education issues, involving critical dialogue, educational topics and general awareness-raising discussions.

The aim was to reach as wide an audience as possible and disseminate information on elections in a comprehensive, accessible and effective manner in order to include all sectors of society. The programmes helped to educate and motivate people for taking greater part in the upcoming presidential elections as well provincial council's elections.

The civic education on presidential and provincial council elections was a two months project (4th July – 20th August 2009) the content of the programme was to broadcast radio programmes regarding the concept of elections in Afghanistan and other related issues to elections to raise the awareness of the people and it was implemented in (Helmand, Khost, Kandahar, Farah and Nimroz).

Following the main activities were done:

- Contract was signed with the local radio station representatives in the targeted provinces to broadcast the radio programmes
- Two days workshop was conducted in the main office for the radio representatives
- Contract signed with Radio Killid for producing 20 minutes of the overall 30 minutes radio programme and the remaining 10 minutes were produced by the local radio stations in the provinces
- Recorded cassettes and CDs of these radio programmes, were distributed to the targeted province radio stations through NAI express
- 20 radio programmes were produced on presidential and provincial council elections
- 40 radio programs were Broadcast and rebroadcasted
- Total of 4000 copies of the Civil Society Magazine were distributed to all targeted provinces through NAI express.

Celebrating International Anti Corruption Day

The conference was held in Sitara Hotel on Wednesday 9th December 2009 to celebrate the International Day of Anti Corruption. It was held at a time where the corruption was a hot issue among the Afghans, government and the International community. In this conference ACSFo invited total of 120 individuals from civil society organizations, media, parliament members, intellectuals and governmental authorities to discuss the issue of corruption and finding the ways of eliminating it. The participants were organized in different working groups and worked on finding the roots and solution for corruption and at the end of the workshop the participants drafted a declaration.

The conference was celebrated as a joint political, development and social actors/partners front to combat corruption. And to facilitate an organic partnership among actors and to provide a unique voice and stand of Afghans in counter corruption strategies in Afghanistan in addition to facilitate a wider public participation in this campaign

The following main activities were carried out:



- Working group guideline was prepared for the conference
- Slogans were written and printed in Dari and Pashto languages
- The facilitation of the conference and working groups were done by CE department itself
- The speeches were made and edited in written format
- The working group discussions were computerized
- The result of the working groups and resolution were edited, compiled and organized in the result 40 page report was prepared and more than 200 copies of the report was submitted to the government national conference on corruption
- At the end of the conference the participants drafted a resolution for fighting against corruption then it was translated into English.
- Speeches of the conference was published in the Civil Society Magazine

Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media - Extension

The “Civic Education and Public Awareness through Media” project was a three years project (May 2006 to April 2009) funded by OXFAM-NOVIB and implemented by ACSFo. The aim of the project was to create a well-informed and proactive citizenship particularly in rural areas where information and access to information is limited. **The project served well in terms of the expansion of the civil society network in provinces.**

The core activities of the project included Development of training manuals, ACSFo monthly magazine, Newsletter, Public outreach trainings, TOT, establishment of advocacy committee, development of public relations strategy, printing books, Afghan intellectual conference, radio programs and installation of information boxes.

The project was awarded an extension period of 8.5 months from 15th September 2009 to 30th April 2010. The project is being implemented in the provinces of (Konar, Ghazni, Wardak, Badakshan, Nimroz and Helmand)

The following main activities were carried out from September to December 2009

- TOT was conducted for 12 civic educators from the six targeted provinces in Kabul
- Agreement was written and signed with the Ministry of Education for the installation of information boxes in the schools
- Information box manual was developed and distributed in the targeted provinces
- 50 banners consisting the logos of ACSFo, Ministry of Education and Higher Education signs were designed and sent to the targeted provinces
- New information box materials were made and sent to the targeted provinces
- New information boxes were installed in the targeted provinces’ high schools and universities
- Guideline and evaluation forms were prepared for the identification of CSOs in the targeted provinces
- 300 copies of manuals (Citizenry rights, Women rights, Parliament, Democracy and Constitution) were distributed in the targeted provinces
- The book, ‘Democracy & Civil Society’, was distributed to the participants and was also sent to the governors of the targeted provinces.
- 15 information boxes were installed in Badakshan and Bamyān provinces from which 3 were installed in the universities and remaining were installed in high schools and teacher training institutes
- 5 CSOs were identified and registered in Bamyān province



Resource Centre (library):



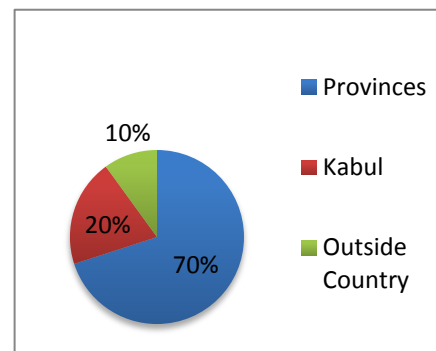
Resource centre has proved to be an essential source for the students for developing their knowledge as the students can find different books in ACSFo RC to acquire the needed information.

During the course of 2009, 127 individuals got the membership of the ACSFo's Civic Education Library; among them 7 are female. Most of the members are students who regularly use the library. The RC was visited 707 times in 2009 with 109 visits by our female members .y. 80 books have been purchased from different sources during 2009 and 120 donated.

Magazine (Jamea-e-Madani)

The Civil Society “Jamea-e-madani” monthly magazine is part of a family of free and nongovernmental press in Afghanistan. Its publication was started in February 2003 containing 52 pages.

Essays and reports published in this magazine focus on strengthening civil society in Afghanistan. This monthly magazine not only presents relevant information on civic education, but also publishes essays that reflect the concern and opinion of various dimensions of civil society and topics including human rights, social-cultural events, professional issues and issues specifically related to women, men and children. During 2009 total of 9 editions has been printed (48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56) in addition a total of 11200 copies from the mentioned editions were distributed across Afghanistan.



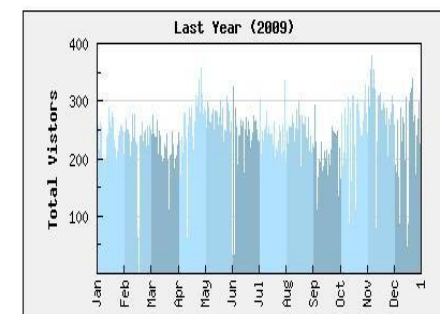
Magazine distribution diagram



Website

Launched on 23 June 2005, the ACSFo website provides civil society actors the opportunity to have easy access to civic education and civil society information. The website informs about ACSFo, its structure, activities and staff members and contains all articles from the Civil Society Magazine.

At first, the website was only available in English but later in 2006 it was expanded to Persian/Dari and Pashto. The number of visitors to the ACSFo website has been very promising. Starting with only a few visitors per day we reached to hundreds per day by the end of 2007. Surprisingly, it has been registered that more visitors come from Europe and USA than from Asia. The website is being updated every two weeks and during 2009 total of 214 pieces was uploaded in Dari website, 63 pieces in Pashto website and 75 pieces in English website with the total website visitors of 133284 individuals.



Graph Summary:
Total Visitors for Year: 85973
Average Per Day: 239

ACSFo Civic Education Achievements:

Output:

- 32 information boxes were renewed in 16 targeted provinces
- 15 information boxes were installed in the 6 targeted provinces
- 36 trainings were conducted covering 792 individuals
- Five CSOs have been identified.
- Conducted overall 848 on the spot and briefings in the 7 targeted provinces covering 34432 participants
- Conducted overall 3468 face to face sessions in the 7 targeted provinces covering 93919 participants

- Three TOT were conducted covering 32 individuals
- 110 radio programs were produced, broadcasted and rebroadcasted
- 119350 copy of the brochure distributed to 7 targeted provinces
- Anti-corruption conference was held and 126 individuals from civil society, parliament members, intellectuals, chamber of commerce representative, human rights activists, writers, social personalities and governmental authorities participated in it.(including male and female)
- The speeches of the anti corruption was made in a book format and was archived
- A 40 paged report prepared from the Anti corruption conference and 200 copies submitted to government.
- Resolution was issued at the end of the anti corruption conference by the participants
- Manual on proper use of information boxes have been developed in Pashto and Dari languages and distributed in targeted provinces
- 9 editions of magazine were designed and printed with 225 different topics
- 36,000 copies of the magazine were distributed across Afghanistan
- 352 pieces including reports, articles, civil society topics and poems were uploaded in the website
- Total website visitors were 133284 during 2009
- Total of 127 individuals (7 female) have got the membership of RC and total of 707 have used the library (109 female)

Outcome:

- 36,000 estimated students have benefited from the information boxes in their schools
- 792 individual in the provinces and districts awareness raised in relation to civil society, parliament, citizenry rights and women rights
- 100 individuals awareness raised regarding the civic education, citizenry, democracy, women rights, national constitution and parliament
- 128351 people awareness raised regarding the elections and democratic processes in the provinces and districts
- 26 trainers awareness raised regarding the different methods of training
- 36,000 directly and 180,000 indirectly received magazine and their awareness raised regarding the civil society and other related topics.
- 50 schools cultural committees awareness raised regarding usage of information boxes through the distributed manuals
- 133284 people accessed and used civil society website
- 707 individuals including 109 female awareness raised through usage of different books

Lessons learnt:

- We have learnt that despite numerous problems women are interested not only in the centre of the provinces but also in districts to have awareness regarding civic education. Therefore civic education section is willing to implement such projects for women in the districts and centres of the provinces.
- We have learnt that people in the provinces are keen to listen to local radios stationed in their own provinces rather than other radios broadcasted from capital therefore it is necessary to focus on local radios in the future, in addition we have learned that radio still is a good tool to deliver civic education messages to the people of very remote areas.
- We have learnt that private local radio stations are committed to broadcast civil society programmes instead of other programmes
- We have learnt that illiterate people have shown keen interest in gaining civic education awareness, it encourage us to deliver civic education messages not only to literate but also to illiterate people in the future projects

- We have learnt that civil society magazine has larger readers over all Afghanistan, as we had many requests by university and high school students to send them more magazine, therefore it is necessary to increase the printed copies of magazine and distribute to the provinces.
- We have learnt through information boxes and magazine that some of students are interested to publish their own writings in the information boxes and magazine.
- We have learnt and believe that its necessary to acquire the trust of people which will build a bridge for better cooperation between the people and the implementing partner for project implementation

Success stories:



Mohammad Yassen Farahmand is a member of ACSFo's Internet Access Centre. He is an employee of Afghanistan Academic Institute and does research on various topics. His current research topic involves "How to Develop Almond Tree-Plant in Afghanistan". He visits the Resource Centre regularly and tells us on the impacts and importance of this centre on him and his work:

"Everyone knows that the Internet is our era's absolute necessity but unfortunately, access to the internet in Afghanistan is very limited. I as a researcher need to read the most updated reports and ACSFo's

Resource Centre is the place where I can find all I need in respect to my research topics. I use the Internet Centre to search and download recent findings in the filed of science and I am quite impressed with the collection of books and printed materials at the library. I would like to thank ACSFo for making all these available for us and I look forward to having a better equipped centre in the future."

"Greetings, my name is Mina Hussaini and I've recently graduated from *Malalai* High School. It's been almost two years that I've got the membership of ACSFo's Resource Centre. Being a member, I can easily access the library materials and use the Internet and printer services for free. ACSFo has a friendly environment and I am always welcomed by the people here. The past two years have been quite eventful for me. In addition to using the resource centre, I have been invited to attend some interesting



events including a one day workshop on peace building. I was also invited to join the organization in celebrating the International Peace day as well as the national teacher's day in Afghanistan. I would like to thank ACSFo for its efforts in make our life better and I look forward to more exciting events and experiences!"

Challenges:

Despite all opportunities and advantages ACSFo may have, the security situation in Afghanistan continues to be impulsive. This has already effected the programme implementation of national and international NGOs as well as UN organizations on the ground and also constitutes a risk for implementing projects.. Nevertheless, ACSFo and its partners are Afghan organizations that are well grounded at the grassroots level, in addition low awareness level and qualified staffs in the field were major challenges for implementation of civic education programme.

COMMUNITY POLICING PROJECT

ACSFo northern regional office has been implementing three community policing project in three district of Balkh province since August 2009 funded by GTZ . The project started a pilot project in Dehdadi and then it was expended to two more districts i.e. Sholgara and Dawlatabad. The community policing project has two components. The following major activities were implemented during this reporting period (June to December 2009)

Community Trust Building Component

In order to improve the community cooperation with local governmental authorities following activities were implemented during the reporting period:

- **Dehdadi district:** The project introduction workshop was conducted on 16 August for one day. The workshop covered topics related to community policing such as community policing concept, goal and objective of project, policing and Islam, civic rights in Afghanistan constitution, experience of community policing in Kabul.
- **Sholgara district:** On 22 of Dec, A one day project introduction workshop was conducted in order to introduce the community police project for members of NWC and SC which have been already formed. Members of both communities plus four people for police and district authorities participated in the workshop. The participants were optimistic that the project will be a step forward to build the trust of community on Police and engage the community in collaborating with local governmental entities. One of police officers while expressing his support said, “The project will help us to fight against criminals and terrorists since collaboration of community is a key element in our success and I am hopeful that this project will help us to build the trust among each other (Police and Community)”.
- **Dawlatabad district:** On 23rd December, a one day project introduction workshop was conducted in order to introduce the community policing project for members of NWC and SC. 25 participants from both communities and police office including the police district centre were briefed on community policing project. The community policing team presented the concept of project and how it would function. The participants believed that the project will have a positive impact on building relationship between community and local authorities. The Police commander, Mr. Besmullah thanked ACSFo and the Community Police project team for preparing the grounds for debate on important issues face to face with community.
- **Workshops implementation methodology and covered topics.** The workshop covered a series topics related to community policing through a participatory approach. The workshops focused on themes such as community policing concept, goal and objective of project, civil society and role of community policing and Islam, civic rights in Afghanistan constitution, experience of community policing in Kabul
- **Good Governance and Democratic Policing:** A one-day Good Governance & Democratic Policing workshop was conducted to introduce the principles of the good governance and democratic policing for members of NWC and SC in Dehdadi.
- The workshop covered topics related to good governance, democratic policing and a group discussion on statute of both committees (NWC and SC). Firstly, in democratic policing section the themes such as what is democratic policing concept , key principles of demarcating policing , objective of democratic police , ensuring/upholding rule of law a key function of police, police ethics and human rights, police accountability and transparency; were presented to the participants. Secondly, in good governance part, two parts were covered: what is good governance and how it is connected with community policing. In addition, eight pillars of good governance (Accountability, transparency], participation .etc) were articulated for trainees. Furthermore, an interesting presentation and open debate were facilitated by a volunteer Access to Information Mr. Kawa Sahab from Afghanistan Independent Human Right commission (AIHRC) Mazar regional office. In this part, the participants were trained on what is access to information right, how it will help the community policing concept.

Capacity Building component

Totally 18 one-day training for law enforcement agencies particularly for police personnel agencies, were conducted in three districts. As a result 72 governmental authorities are now able to provide better service for communities’ residents. The trainings mainly covered the following topics:

- Basic management and administration

- Communication
- Conflict management
- Basic finance management
- Demonstration law;
- Violence
- Citizens rights according to Afghanistan constitution and other international human rights instruments

It is mentionable that since the trainee's capacity is low in understanding the lessons, it was fully considered that the technical theme should be explained through an appropriate language and relevant examples related to their routine tasks.

A participatory methodology was used for conducting the trainings to encourage the trainees in taking active part during the sessions and make the lesson interesting for them. The trainees were satisfied with the quality of training and they thought that these trainings will enable them to perform their functions effectively.

Achievements:

- In three the three districts of Balkh province , as result of ACSFo intervention through the community policing innovative, there is a public space for community to debate on social affairs particularly the issues concerning the police behaviour and misuse of other law enforcements entities. Interestingly, the communities are not only mobilized in traditional aspects of social activism but also they are seeking local approach to address the problems that have never considered/touched seriously such as environment protection, annihilating/demolishing gambling house which are longstanding phenomena within their community.
- In three district the local authorise are providing better service for community

DAI/LGCD:

Introduction:

The Local Governance and Community Development (LGCD) project was funded by USAID to assist the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) to extend its writ in provinces and districts by implementing institution building and community development projects that improve GoA services delivery and stability in the provinces. USAID LGCD, was implemented by DAI in collaboration with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), operating in Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar, Khost, Nooristan, Paktika, Lugar, Paktya, Ghazni, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the DAI/LGCD

project was expanded to two other provinces - Daikundi and Nimroz. The lead-trainers of ACSFo conducted a four day long TOT workshop to VARA and ACSFo Daikundi trainers at ACSFo Kabul Office in close coordination with DAI and CSC. The total duration of this project was four months - one month for project set up and three months for trainings and the implementing partner NGOs delivered trainings on General Management, IT and English to 60 civil servants simultaneously in the above mentioned provinces starting from 1st July 2009 and lasted for a total of 3 months until 30th September 2009.

The objective of the LGCD Component was – (Support to Local Public Administration and Governance) – in order to improve provincial and district level government capacity to deliver services that could come up with citizen needs. The activities implemented under this component were designed to achieve the following target:

- Build and support sub-national government institutions to be responsive to community needs by delivering essential services effectively and efficiently;
- Improve citizens participation in planning, decision-making, and oversight;
- Improve sub-national government’s transparency and accountability to citizens;
- Strengthen inter-governmental relations.

Target institutions for LGCD intervention included sub-national government institutions such as, the offices of the Provincial Governor (PoG), Provincial Development Committees (PDC) and Provincial Line Ministry Departments. All these were challenged by a lack of institutional capacity to fulfil their mandates.

Under the training component, LGCD provided formal training to civil servants focused on attainable knowledge and necessary skills to improve provincial and district level capacities to deliver services which could address citizens’ needs and moreover to strengthen public relations and outreach. The trainings which continued for 19 months comprised Basic English, Information Technology and General Management including Financial Management, Human Resources Management, Conflict Resolution, Leadership, Project Management, Planning, Procurement and Communications Training Modules.

Basic objectives of USAID/LGCD project

The objective of the LGCD Component 1 was – Support to Local Public Administration and Governance – and to improve provincial and district level government capacity to deliver services that are responsive to citizen needs.

ACSFo provided its services to support the training component of the institution building packages under the LGCD Component 1 by pursuing the following objectives:

1. Undergone a follow up with NGO Partners on the project implementation and facilitated the information sharing between the entities involved on the central level (DAI/LGCD, IARCSC and ACSFo) and implementing partner NGOs in the field;
2. Communicated the project progress with DAI/LGCD through providing regular consolidated project reports (weekly, Biweekly and Course completion)
3. Worked for building the capacities of Partner NGOs by providing ToTs, refresher trainings and technical assistance.
4. Provided public awareness on capacity building of Civil Servants in USAID/LGCD targeted Province.

Role of ACSFo in LGCD project:

The primary activities conducted by ACSFo Headquarter during the project period included:

Follow up (Coordination)

ACSFo Headquarter staff in Kabul supported the smooth running of the implementation of the LGCD – Training Component by fulfilling its role as a coordinating body and did follow up with partner NGOs. ACSFo’s coordination activities in this project included the facilitation of information sharing and decision-making processes through the organization of meetings, message

distribution and bilateral communications. Thus, ACSFo acted as a nodal point for assuring the flow of strategic information between DAI, IARCSC and the 7 implementing partner NGOs in the field. ACSFo convened meetings with DAI and/or IARCSC when necessary and subsequently informed and guided the Partner NGOs about important decisions made, on any upcoming challenges via phone, email correspondence and sometimes through face to face meetings reported important information about the project progress to DAI/LGCD.

ACSFo was further responsible for the organization of four-monthly meetings between the persons in charge (Directors) of each organization involved in Kabul. Those meetings served to guarantee a proper exchange of information about the challenges, progress and the immediate impact of the training activities on a high level in order to approve or modify the procedures of operation if required. During the whole project ACSFo convened 5 director's coordination meetings in which the training progress, training related challenges and their solutions were proposed. Besides the implementing partner NGOs directors, representatives of DAI and IARCSC were also present and they answered for the questions and proposed solutions for the challenges raised by partner NGOs accordingly.

In addition, ACSFo coordinated with implementing partner NGOs the recruitment phase of IT and English trainers for hiring qualified trainers.

Communication:

ACSFo in coordination with DAI developed project reporting system (narrative) which includes weekly report format, Biweekly report format, monthly report, course completion report format and project final report format of each General Management, IT and English Training Course. Subsequently, ACSFo circulated all these reporting formats to Partner NGOs and requested them to submit their timely reports to ACSFo. ACSFo consolidated the Partners' reports and timely submitted the standard and good quality consolidated reports covering all partners report to DAI/LGCD. Generally, ACSFo compiled, consolidated and sent 30 weekly reports, 15 biweekly reports, 15 monthly reports and 5 course completion reports to DAI main office. Besides, ACSFo submitted 33 milestone reports – 11 for USAID/LGCD coordination department, 11 for Jalal Abad and 11 for Paktia offices - to DAI main office.

ACSFo besides conducting report writing session assisted partner NGOs regarding standard report writing by sending samples of written reports, email correspondence and telephonic conversations.

Furthermore, ACSFo in close coordination and cooperation with USAID/LGCD developed pre-test, post-test, trainees biweekly tests papers, intermediate examination, training evaluation forms and trainers' monthly assessment test formats in English and local languages. These test papers for the purpose of assessing the progress and knowledge of trainers and trainees of IT, English and management classes in Dari, Pashto and English languages were timely sent to 12 targeted provinces and the result of which had been reported to ACSFo coordination section by monthly reports.

In addition, ACSFo prepared PPTs to all the training modules in Dari and Pashto languages which were subsequently translated into English language. And these PPTs have been circulated to partner NGOs before their training course on specific training module.

ACSFo has also extended its services in translating short case-studies collected from Partner NGOs into English language.

ToTs, Refresher Trainings and Technical Assistance:

The other useful service provided by ACSFo coordination section was conducting general Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop and ToT refresher, which was supplemented by report writing sessions. ACSFo for the purpose of having qualified trainers in terms of management, IT and English language and revitalizing their knowledge and information on adult training, training contents, preparing session plan, lesson plan selecting training techniques, and methodologies, advantages and disadvantages of

training methodologies, learning aims, preparing supportive training material, visual aids, setting training material and class management conducted four general ToT workshops along with four ToT refreshers at the beginning of the LGCD project in 12 provinces and also in Daikundi and Nimroz provinces and during the implementation of LGCD project in Kabul. All management, IT and English trainers participated in general ToT and refresher trainings. It is mentionable that some workshops were specifically focused on IT and English training methods, session plans, types of session plans and training components. Moreover, ACSFo coordination team visited Urozgan, Helmand, Jalal Abad, Kunar, Laghman, Paktia, Khost and Lugal provinces to technically assist project managers and trainers in terms of reporting system, writing qualitative reports, preparing session plans, lesson plans, class management, documentation system and any other training related issues and challenges. The technical assistants have also visited the training venue, observed the training environment, training methodologies, training materials and trainers' behaviour and approaches which were supplemented by constructive and informative feedback from technical assistant to the respective trainers and project managers. The report of these technical assistance trips were submitted to DAI main office in Kabul.

Coverage in ACSFo Magazine:

Given the existing gap between the Afghan population and the Government which were characterized by profound mistrust, ACSFo contributed to a greater transparency of the activities conducted for and by civil servants. By means of a comprehensive coverage in ACSFo monthly publication (Jamea-e-Madani Magazine), ACSFo tried at raising the local population's awareness about the importance of capacity building activities for government staff.

ACSFo collected reports about the training activities from the provinces, the need for such activities and the benefit to the communities. During this project ACSFo media officer visited Kunar, Laghman, Jalal Abad, Pakia, Khost and Lugal provinces in which he interviewed with head of different departments, civil servants under the training and even governors of provinces on importance and impact of LGCD training and need of civil servants for such trainings. In total 11 reports along with success stories were prepared by media officer and published in ACSFo monthly magazine – Jamea-e-Madani Magazine. The magazine covering the training reports and success stories were delivered implementing partner NGOs to distribute in their respective provinces.

Project Achievements:

7 partner NGOs closely worked with ACSFo for implementation of Local Governance and Community Development (LGCD) project in 12 target provinces. BEST in Ghazni, BEFA in Nooristan, NPO/ RRAA in Kunar, AHTP in Laghman, HAFO in Helmand, HDS in Zabul and Urozgan, TLO in Khost and Paktika and ACSFo itself in Nangarhar and Paktia provinces. .

Each round of training covered three months and during these project five rounds of management, IT and English trainings were passed over successfully. Furthermore, during each period a total of 20 civil servants were trained on management, IT and English language in each target province. However, there were some other civil servants who regularly attended the training sessions (in Ghazni, Laghman and Khost provinces) who along with officially introduced civil servants made a total of 1065 people. The trained civil servants belonged to different directorates and even heads of directorates.

Regarding the ToT and refresher training, it is mentionable that Coordination Department for the purpose of elevating the capacities of partner NGOs' trainers and smooth running of the project conducted four general ToT workshop and four refresher trainings – including IT and English refreshers - in which management, IT and English trainers have periodically participated for the purpose of their knowledge revitalization and refreshment.

Visiting Urozgan, Helmand, Jalal Abad, Kunar, Laghman, Paktia, Khost and Lugal provinces by ACSFo coordination team for the purpose of technical assistance to trainers and project managers in terms of assisting in preparing standard lesson plan and session plan, class management, using training participatory methods and utilizing training tools and materials during the training.

ACSFo Conducted several coordination meetings and five directors' coordination meetings with DAI, IARCSC and implementing partner NGOs on project, training, certificates, project extension related issues.

Media officer's working visited to Kunar, Laghman, Jalal Abad, Paktia, Khost and Lugal provinces, observing the training venue, interviewing with heads of different directorates, governors and trainees under training which was followed by preparing success stories and realistic reports on impact of LGCD training, advantage of training and effect of training on building the capacity of civil servants in terms of operating computer, speaking in English language and managerial and administrative skills and knowledge is the other obvious achievement. Besides, these reports were timely published in ACSFo monthly magazine - Jamae-e-Madani magazine – and distributed to target provinces to raise the awareness of public on training and impact of capacity building projects.

The LGCD Project Impact:

Local governance and community development project was designed and implemented to expand the knowledge and elevate the skills of civil servants on basics of management, leadership, communication, HR management, financial management, conflict management, planning, procurement and project designing, operating Ms. Windows, Ms. Word, Ms. Excel, Ms. Power Point and internet programs as well as English language. In the whole improving their administrative and managerial skills and utilizing computer by them was targeted by this project. As example during the project they could learn how to manage their time, create better communication, solve a conflict in the office, understand the barriers of communication, delegate the authority, get familiar with styles of leadership, recognize the best leadership style, prepare their official documents by computer, design and format the documents, calculate and use basic functions of Ms. Excel, design and develop different power point presentations and give them fantastic transitions and being much familiar with English language. These all get together to support the civil servants to make better working environment, carry out their duties to the fullest interest, have better performances, meet the deadlines, demand and expectation of organization and catch the satisfaction of head of department and finally provide better services to Afghan citizens and timely accomplish the tasks of clients. In a very bright and precise word delivering timely, adequate and necessary services to community people and Afghan citizen is the overall impact of LGCD project.

Challenges:

Conducting such useful trainings – Management, IT & English language – could really assist and bring positive changes in performances of civil servants who were not well equipped with managerial and administrative skill and knowledge. While on the other hand conducting such trainings in some risky and insecure provinces such as Khost, Paktika, Zabul and Urozgan created major problems. For instance martyrdom of Bakht Nazar Zahid – Paktika management trainer – during this project was a great humanitarian loss which caused the training to be stopped in the mentioned province for a while, leaving the old trainers due to their recognition by Taliban and hiring the new trainers. Explosion of bomb in Khost training venue – municipality directorate – and destruction of training venue with all training materials such as computers, chairs, tables and etc. which stopped the training for one and half month until the provision of new training venue, computer, tables and chairs was another great security challenge. Because of insecurity the trainers had to go by flight and start their trainings later in provinces such as Urozgan and Paktika.

Late delivery of books to some provinces during the project, inexistence of electricity and heating system for some while in some target provinces, absence of some trainees, and lack of cooperation by provincial directorates, also needed solutions. These problems were solved through information sharing between involved entities holding coordination meetings in central levels.

Leaving and resigning of the trainers and project managers from target provinces during the project due to different reasons, such as finding new job with better salary, security issues, and lack of good performances were another obstacle. Any how this problem was also solved by recruiting new qualified staff by implementing partner NGO in which ACSFo contributed and assisted too.

Finally, late signing of previous rounds certificates by IARCSC due to lack of coordination between the heads of civil service commission and civil service institute caused delay in distributing certificates for civil servant on its specific time was another challenge. This problem was solved through conducting coordination meetings with head of civil service commission in which ACSFo managing director also participated.

Recommendation:

LGCD in its own, was a unique and new project, which focused on enhancing and building the capacity of civil servants in provincial level in terms of using computer basic office programs – such as Ms. Windows, Ms. Word, Ms. Excel, Ms. Power Point - including IT, speaking, writing, reading and listening skills of English language, management and administrative skills. Actually, there had been no such useful, qualitative and capacity building-oriented project throughout Afghanistan. Whereas regarding LGCD project the following logical recommendations can be raised:

- Bringing positive, long lasting and tangible changes in terms of providing better services for Afghan citizens needed committed and professional civil servants which were in dire need of receiving qualitative and quantitative trainings,
- The process of capacity building should not be limited only to some civil servants. However, it should have covered all types of civil servants.
- Three months training were not adequate for capacity building of civil servants long lasting and positive changes,
- More attention and consideration should be paid to education section in terms of providing more time and budget.
- Extending the project more than 5 rounds and for all types of civil servants was the strong request of civil servants in target provinces.

Conclusion:

Finally, after all joint efforts, endeavours, coordination and cooperation among all involved entities who served their time and energy for implementation and feasibility of LGCD project for the five rounds of management, IT and English language trainings in Ghazni, Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman, Khost, Paktia, Nanagarhar, Zabul and Urozgan provinces and four rounds of training in Luagr, Paktika and Helmand provinces, the LGCD project was successfully implemented in 12 target provinces. During this project two management trainers, two English language trainers and two IT trainers (one lead trainer and one co-trainer) served their best to build the capacities of civil servants. Moreover, the management, IT and English language trainings were 6 days per week each for 2 hours and one and half hour respectively. More importantly, 20 civil servants were graduated after each training phase and they received credible certificates signed and stamped by IARCSC.

During this period, ACSFo follow-up team acted as coordination body and circulated all necessary information, decisions, training related concerns and problems among all involved entities both in central and provincial levels which were updating the implementing partner NGOs, DAI and IARCSC on LGCD project and trainings. ACSFo coordination team not only circulated the information and data among involved entities but also did a series of activities for smooth running and better implementation of the project. One of the significant activities was newly developing the management nine modules, Ms. Windows, Ms. Word, Ms.

Excel, Ms. Power Point, Internet, Active Book one and New Intercom, one power point presentation and timely sending them to target provinces to train the civil servants. The other overarching activity was conducting four general ToT and four ToT refreshers including IT, English and report writing sessions both for management, IT and English trainers at the beginning of the project and during the project which revitalized and refreshed the trainers and played key role in their training performances. These workshops were for different duration which fluctuates between three to ten days. Having technical assistance trip to almost all target provinces during which the training classes were visited and the trainers were assisted in preparing lesson plan, training methods, trainees' motivation and other training related issues could be called another important activities with tangible outcomes. Having working trip by media officer to target provinces and collecting the views of trainees and directors of department through interviews on outcome and impact of LGCD project and publishing them in ACSFo monthly magazine for the purpose of public awareness raising on importance of LGCD project as well as compiling and consolidating weekly, biweekly, monthly and course completion reports received from targeted provinces and milestone reports were worth mentioning activities. Moreover, indicating developing reporting timetable, test timetable, test papers for management, IT and English classes in three languages are also essential.

Altogether, four rounds of LGCD trainings in Paktika, Lugal and Helmand provinces and five rounds of LGCD training in other target provinces was successfully implemented by involved entities. They trained 1065 civil servants on general management and 998 civil servants on IT and English from different directorates despite there were security problems, shortage of heater, electricity and internet and also sometimes late delivery of training books in some provinces.

INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE AFGHAN CIVIL SOCIETY (I-PACS)

Overview:

With the intention of supporting overarching goal of I-PACS programme “to increase the role and viability of civil society in Afghanistan”, Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) is actively involved as the Intermediary Service Organization (ISO) under the partnership with Counterpart International since 2005. This initiative has had a tremendous role in the organization development and capacity building of Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) during the last four productive years (first Phase and two years of second phase of I-PACS). Considering the requirement for more organizational development interventions for Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo), it is intended to support the development of stronger Intermediary Service Organization (ACSFo) which will support the Civil Society Support Centres (CSSCs) and will also contribute to the development of twenty target Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in three provinces (Kabul, Maidan and Parwan) by providing different trainings and technical assistance. The expected outcomes are institutional capacity building of Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) and proficient and capable Civil Society Support Centres (CSSCs) and target Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Based on planned ACSFo OD interventions, ACSFo strengthens its HR section through updating the existing job descriptions and develop new job descriptions for the new positions which has been created recently, the other OD intervention of ACSFo in FY2010 is reviewing ACSFo hierarchy the third and last planned OD intervention of ACSFo is developing ACSFo membership and Partnership guideline.. The developed capacity within our partners will result to better develop the capacity of the target CSOs and as well as deliver quality services to their target constituency. On the other hand as a result of this project target CSOs will gain the capacity and will become able to better identify the real need of their communities, plan for solving the problem, raise fund, implement the planned projects and evaluate them. The duration of this project is 12 months, starting from 1st October 2009 up to 30th September 2010.

Objectives:

The I-PACS programme aims to increase the role and viability of civil society in Afghanistan by

- Ensuring an informed policy and liable decision-making on equitable resource allocation concerning civil society organizations
- Assisting in the development and enforcement of a legal framework that strengthens the civil society sector
- Building the capacity of civil society organizations in designing, implementing, managing, monitoring and evaluating their activities more effectively, and to achieve their organizational objectives all with transparency, and
- Providing funding to CSOs to implement development and advocacy projects.

Management Overview

In order to exchange information, to deepen the understanding of each others’ responsibilities and to ensure the participation of all partners in the planning and implementation of the programme activities, several I-PACS working group meetings with Counterpart International and CSSCs were regularly held. These meetings were characterized by productive discussions about the progresses of the I-PACS programme, I-PACS training plan, obstacles and overcoming strategies, CSO capacity assessments, ISO’s coaching and observing responsibilities whereas CSSCs deliver trainings to CSOs, and training modules development.

During the reporting period ACSFo I-PACS Manager in a team consisting of CPI and I-PACS partners participated in an exposure tour to Armenia. The aim of the tour was to see the advocacy activities which have been done in Armenia with support of CPI, take benefit from received experiences in advocacy in Afghanistan and share them with I-PACS partners as well as target CSOs during advocacy training and providing technical assistance to them on advocacy related topics. The team left Kabul to Armenia on 30th July 2009 and returned on 11th August 2009.

At the end of third quarter of year 2009 both CSSCs and CSOs went through organizational development assessment in order to identify how I-PACS programme was beneficial and effective to them. The findings of this assessment were conducive to replace some CSOs due to lack of interest and stability. Later on ACSFo I-PACS team started checking with different potential CSOs in the target areas.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT under I-PACS

Strategy and Policy Development:

Strengthening ACSFo HR Policy:

Finalizing process of updating ACSFo HR policy and orientation of staff on updated policy was one of the OD activity planned in the year 2009. So for the Process to update ACSFo Human resources policy has gone ahead well, the feedback of staff have been taken ,included to the human resources policy and its draft has been presented to ACSFo management for approval. It will be implemented after approval.

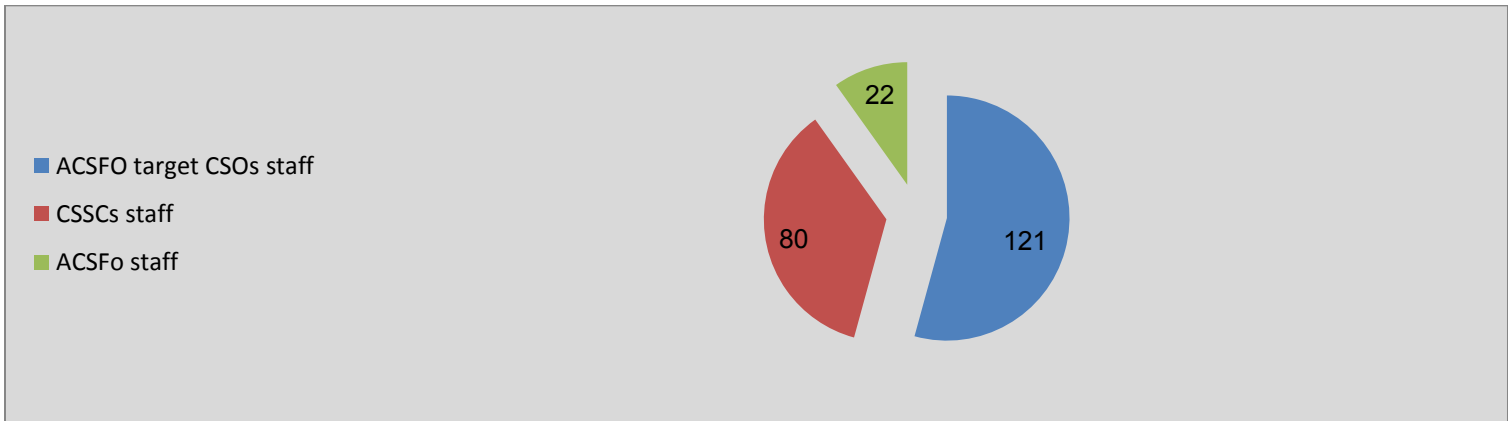
Updating ACSFo hierarchy and ACSFo staff job description:

Reviewing and updating ACSFo hierarchy was one OD objectives fixed for year 2009. ACSFo management is in the process of reviewing and updating it. But due to involvement in other activities it wasn't finalized. To update ACSFo staff job description was one of the OD objectives that were fixed for year 2009.

Besides promoting the identified civil society entities I-PACS is dedicated to build the capacities of ACSFo staff members and ACSFo partners. I-PACS offered capacity building trainings on the following topics:

- Human rights training and ToT to I-PACS partners
- Advocacy training and ToT to I-PACS partners
- General administration and Human resources training and ToT to I-PACS Partners
- Community human rights and problems identification training to target CSOs
- Basic finance and accounting training to target CSOs
- Advocacy training to target CSOs
- General administration and human resources training to target CSOs

The following diagram illustrates the number of staff members trained by ACSFo I-PACS trainers on the different levels:



TRAININGS CONDUCTED TO ACSFo STAFF

ACSFo partner CSSCs and ACSFo staff received the following trainings under the I-PACS Program:

Name of the Training Course	Duration of Training Course	No. of ACSFo Participants
ToT on human rights	5days	3
ToT on CSO General administration on human resources (Dari and Pashto rounds)	18 days	7
ToT on advocacy	5days	2
Advocacy training (2 rounds)	3 days	1
Community human rights issues and problem identification three rounds in (Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e- sharief.	2days	2
Training on human rights	2days	1
Training on general administration and human resources.	3 days	1
Basic finance and accounting	5 days	5

Provision of trainings and technical assistance to CSSCS:

Throughout the project, the ACSFo I-PACS team provided trainings, technical assistance and timely feedbacks to partner CSSCs regarding their organizational development and delivery of trainings to their respective target CSOs. Below is the list of trainings conducted ISOs to CSSCs under I-PACS program.

Conducting human rights training and ToT to I-PACS partners:

To increase capacity of I-PACS partners a five days training on Human Rights was conducted from February 15-19 at Counterpart training hall. Twenty-seven (27) Participants from both ISOs and eight CSSCs participated the training with twenty (20) male and

Name of the Training Course	Duration of Training Course	No. of Participants
ToT on human rights	5days	27
ToT on CSO General administration on human resources (Dari and Pashto) rounds)	18 days	33
ToT on advocacy	5days	19

seven (7) female participants. The training was facilitated by Afghanistan Independent Human Right Commission's (AIHRC) trainers and ACSFo had the responsibility of logistic arrangements. It is worth to be mention that AIHRC completed Training Needs Assessment TNA through sending questioners to all participants and having back the filled ones. The aim of this training was to increase the capacity of I-PACS partners on Human Rights (HR). The participants of the training obtained adequate information regarding the Human Rights Universal Declarations and Conventions, AIHRC History, Goal and Programmatic Departments, Children Rights, Women Rights, Administrative Corruptions, and Civil Society Organizations Role towards HR fulfilment in Afghanistan.

Conducting Human resources and general management training and TOT to I-PACS partners:

To increase the capacity of I-PACS partners two Pashto and Dari rounds trainings on human resources management and general management were conducted. The Pashto round of the training started on 11th April 09 and ended on 19th April 2009. The venue of training was ACSFo training hall and the training was facilitated by Bangladesh Training and Resource Centre (BTRC).Fifteen (15) Participants from both ISOs and four CSSCs participated in the training (fourteen male and one female). The first three days of the training were allocated to general administration; the second three days were allocated to Human resource management while the last three days were allocated to TOT in which the participants facilitated various sessions on HR and GA relevant topics in order to improve their skills of transferring them to the target CSOs. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

The Dari round of human resources management and general administration started on 19th April 09 and ended on 28th April 2009. The venue of training was ACSFo training hall and the training was facilitated by Bangladesh Training and Resource Centre (BTRC). Eighteen individuals from both ISOs and CSSCs participated in the training (10male and 8 female). The first three days of the training were allocated to general administration; the second three days were allocated to human resource management while the last three days were allocated to TOT in which the participants facilitated various sessions on relevant topics in order to improve their skill of transferring them to target CSOs. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

Conducting advocacy training and ToT to I-PACS partners:

During this reporting period ACSFo I-PACS section facilitated five days intermediate advocacy training to CSSCs and ISOs. The logistical arrangement for the training was made by Afghan Women Education Centre (AWEC). The venue of the training was AWEC training hall. The training started on 4th October and ended on 8th October. The first three days of the training covered

Advocacy contents while the last two days were allocated for TOT in order to improve their skill to transferring them to target CSOs. The total number of participants that attended the training was 19 (15 male and 4female). The training ended with distribution of certificates to the participants.

Trainings And Information To Target Csos:

In order to strengthen the understanding on the civil society concept and the significance of civil society entities, the ACSFo I-PACS section played a vital role in disseminating information on the importance of civil society through its partner organizations and provided several trainings to build their capacities. The following trainings were conducted to ACSFo target CSOs.

Name of the Training Course	Duration of Training Course	No. of Participants
Advocacy training (2 rounds)	3 days	34
Community human rights issues & problem identification three rounds in (Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e- sharief	2days	48
Training on human rights	2days	15
Training on general administration and human resources.	6 days	19
Basic accounting & finance training	5 days	21

Human resources and general management training to target CSOs:

ACSFo IPACS section conducted six days general administration and human resources management training which started on 23rd May and ended on 28th May. The first three days of training were allocated for general administration while the last three days were allocated for human resources management. The number of participants who attended the training was 19 (4 female and 15 male). The participants belonged to seventeen various CSOs. The venue of training was ACSFo training hall. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

Basic accounting and finance training to target CSOs:

ACSFo IPACS section conducted a five day basic finance and accounting training to its target CSOs with the facilitation of Avais Hyder Liaquat Nauman (AHLN) charter Accountant Company. The training started on 7th June and ended on 11th June. The venue of training was ACSFo training hall. Total number of participants who attended the training was 21 individuals (18 male and 3 female).

Human rights training to target CSOs:

ACSFo I-PACS section conducted two days Human Rights training for its target CSOs. The training started on 29th June and ended on 30th June. The training was facilitated by ACSFo I-PACS training officer and programme support officer. The venue of training was ACSFo training hall. Total number of participants that attended the training was 15 (10 male and 5 female) who belonged to 14 CSOs. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

Conducting and facilitating Community Human Rights Issue Identification and Solution (CHRIIS) training to target CSOs:

ACSFO I-PACS section conducted Community human rights issue identification and solution training to ACSFO, WASSA, ACTD and ADWRO re-grant target CSOs as well as their I-PACS teams. It is worth to be mentioned that ACSFO I-PACS manager and training officer had one trip to Herat and another to Mazar-e-Sharif to conduct CHRIIS training to WASSA and ADWRO target Re-grant CSOs while ACTD's target Re-grant CSOs were invited to receive the training in Kabul along with ACSFO's target Re-grant CSOs. ACSFO I-PACS manager left for Herat on 3rd November to facilitate the CHRIIS training. In Herat the training was conducted for WASSA target CSOs' and WASSA I-PACS staff. The training was conducted in WASSA training hall. The training started on 4th Nov and ended on 5th November 2009. 12 participants (9 male and 3 female) participated the training. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

ACTD target Re-grant CSOs as well as ACTD I-PACS team were invited to receive the training in Kabul. The training started on 11th November and ended on 12th November. The 17 participants (15 male & 2 female) participated in the training. The training was monitored by ACSFO M&E section and data received from evaluation form was entered to MIS. The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

ACSFO I-PACS training officer left for Mazar-e-Sharif on 16th November to facilitate the CHRIIS to ADWRO target re-grant CSOs. I-PACS target Re-grant CSOs from Balkh and Faryab CSSCs were invited to the training. The venue of the training was ADWRO training hall. The training started on 17th November and ended on 18th November. The total number of participants who attended the training was 19 (16 male and 3 female). The training ended with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

Conducting advocacy training to target CSOs:

ACSFO I-PACS section conducted two rounds of three days advocacy training to its target CSOs. The first round of the training started on 27th October and ended on 29th October. The training was conducted in ACSFO training hall. The number of the participants who attended the training was 12 (9 male and 3 female). The training was monitored by ACSFO M&E section and data received from evaluation forms was entered into MIS

The second round of the training started on 16th November and ended on 18th November. The training was conducted in ACSFO training hall. Total number of the participants who attended the training was 22 (19 male and 3 female). The training was monitored by ACSFO M&E section and data received from evaluation forms was entered into MIS. The training ended with distribution of the training to the participants.

CSOs capacity Assessment:

Based on current action plan, ACSFO was supposed to conduct capacity assessment for its target CSOs. Capacity assessment of target CSOs is a process that takes place once a year for all the CSOs of every I-PACS partner. This assessment is performed based on a checklist which has been developed by CPI. ACSFO I-PACS team started the process on August 12th and ended the process on August 30th. ACSFO I-PACS team visited its entire target CSOs and collected required documents and information regarding its target CSOs. At the end of the process the soft copy of all the checklists were shared with CPI in order to be uploaded to the online MIS of I-PACS.



I-PACS Recourse Center Officer providing technical support to CSOs.



Training on community human rights issues and problem identification to target CSOs.

Technical assistance:

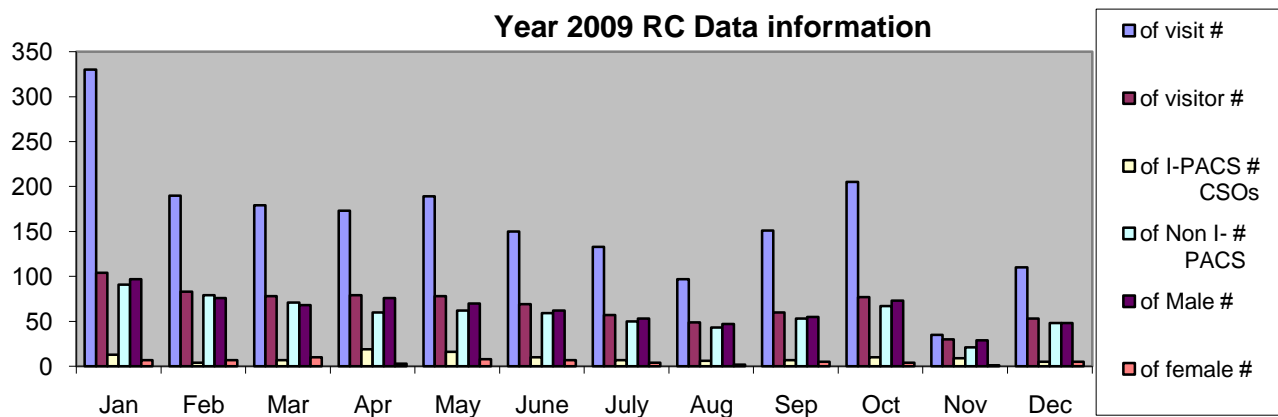
From January to December 2009 ACSFo I-PACS section through its Support Centre provided technical assistance to ACSFo partner organizations and its target CSOs in proposal writing, project management, advocacy, community appraisal and communication through internet. During the reporting period two thousand and forty two (**2042**) visits took place by eight hundred and seventeen (**817**) different visitors (including **754** male and **63** female). While **113** of the visitors were of I-PACS target CSOs and **704** of them were Non I-PACS CSOs.

The beneficiary of this centre:

Support centre gives the priority to the followings and try its best to prepare the service for:

- CSOs Civil Society Organizations
- Associations
- Social Organizations
- Students
- Teachers and instructors
- NGOs personnel

The following chart shows the use of resource centre and capacity building provided to the number of CSOs and non CSOs and individuals through Year 2009.



The following summarized table provides information of technical assistance provided through ACSFo Resource Centre on monthly base.

Name of months	#of Visits	#of Visitors	# I-PACS CSOs	# Non I-PACS CSOs	# of Male	# of Female
Jan- 09	330	104	13	91	97	7
Feb- 09	190	83	4	79	76	7
Mar- 09	179	78	7	71	68	10
APR - 09	173	79	19	60	76	3
May - 09	189	78	16	62	70	8
June- 09	150	69	10	59	62	7
July - 09	133	57	7	50	53	4
Aug- 09	97	49	6	43	47	2
Sept-09	151	60	7	53	55	5
Oct- 09	205	77	10	67	73	4
Nov- 09	35	30	9	21	29	1
Dec- 09	110	53	5	48	48	5
Total	2042	817	113	704	754	63

During the reporting period ACSFo I-PACS Recourse Centre Officer sent twenty nine RFPs to ACSFo target CSOs by mail and as well as handed the soft copy to the CSOs they don't have Email address. In addition, ACSFo RC Officer provided Technical Assistance (TA).

The following table shows detail of sent RFPs:

NO	RFP Announcement Organization	RFP Name	Date of Submission to CSOs
1	Counterpart International	Human Rights Grants 2009	13/01/2009
2	CONSTELLA Group LLC	COMPRI-A Project International Education Communication /Behaviour Change	13/01/2009
3	CONSTELLA Group LLC	Monitoring of COMPRI-A Project International Education Communication /Behaviour Change	13/01/2009
4	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture program (ASAP)	Design ,Delivery & Installation of Cold Storage room	15/01/2009
5	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture program (ASAP)	Wheel Barrow Sprayer	15/01/2009
6	International Relief development(IRD)	2 workshops for integrated Agriculture Assistance Grant Application	13/05/2009
7	International Relief development	RFA 09-06- Gender support to women in skills, Entrepreneurship and literacy.	13/05/2009
8	CONSTELLA Future Group	RFP titled as Annual HIV and AIDS Media Award Monitoring for 2009 promoting Media involvement in Health Care Communication	31/05/2009
9	International Relief development	RFA 09-06- Gender support to women in skills, Entrepreneurship and literacy.	31/05/2009
10	Alternative Development Program (ADP) in Afghanistan – Northern and Western Regions	RFP Planning , architectural and Engineering Services	31/05/2009
11	Counterpart international	Request for proposal for CIVIC education award for disables promoting the issues on government , democracy peace building and civic education	31/05/2009
12	ASAP	Agriculture & Engineering service Development	23/06/2009

13	Afghanistan Relief Development (ARD)	(RFP) # ADP/SW- 0604 – Consultant Services for a Farah Province Agricultural Market Study and Business Development Plan	23/06/2009
14	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies(IFRC)	REQUEST FOR CONDUCTING A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON HIV/AIDS SERVEY PROPOSAL	23/06/2009
15	BARAC Afghanistan	Inviting Expressions of Interest from the local NGOs to be partners of BRAC Afghanistan Education Program for implementing community based education	25/06/2009
16	<i>International Relief Development(IRD)</i>	Request for Proposal (RFP) Number SPR-PO-04-0125-2009, Water and Sanitation Phase II, Eastern Region of Afghanistan	25/06/2009
17	ASAP	Agriculture & Engineering service Development	23/06/2009
18	International Relief development(IRD)	2 workshops for integrated Agriculture Assistance Grant Application	13/05/2009
19	International Relief development	RFA 09-06- Gender support to women in skills, Entrepreneurship and literacy.	13/05/2009
20	CONSTELLA Future Group	RFP titled as Annual HIV and AIDS Media Award Monitoring for 2009 promoting Media involvement in Health Care Communication	31/05/2009
21	International Relief development	RFA 09-06- Gender support to women in skills, Entrepreneurship and literacy.	31/05/2009
22	Alternative Development Program (ADP) in Afghanistan – Northern and Western Regions	RFP Planning , architectural and Engineering Services	31/05/2009
23	Counterpart international	Request for proposal for CIVIC education award for disables promoting the issues on government ,	31/05/2009

		democracy peace building and civic education	
24	IRD	IRD SPR-SEA is seeking Request for Applications -Livelihood Support to the Women of Southern Region	30/08/2009
25	Italian Embassy	Health Program me for the population of the provinces of Kabul and Baghlan	30/08/2009
26	Counterpart International	Gender Rapid Assessment Survey	30/08/2009
27	Counter Part International	Human Rights Grant	13/12/2009
29	European union	Human Rights Project for all CSOs and CSSCs	20/12/2009

IPACS Program Achievements:

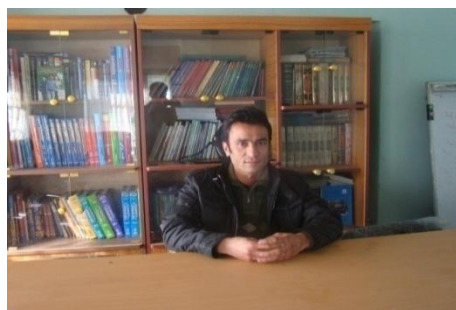
As a result of conducting trainings on various topics like advocacy, community human rights and problem identification, proposal writing and technical assistance, the capacity of I-PACS partners as well as CSOs has improved. Total three rounds of training and TOT were conducted to I-PACS partners on Human rights, Advocacy, Human resources and general management topics. They conducted the same training to their target CSOs. Total 10 rounds of training were conducted to target CSOs on basic accounting, human rights, human resources and general management, community human rights and problem solving and Advocacy topics. As result of which their administrative and financial systems and structures have been improved and standardized.

The director of AWTDO said, "As our organization was a newly established organization and wasn't able to develop proposals in order to raise fund for our organization sustainability since its establishment, following three years of technical assistance and trainings provided by ACSFo I-PACS section on various topics like proposal writing and etc... to its target CSOs including us, their and our capacity have been built enough and we can develop good proposals". On 20 April 2008 ACSFo I-PACS section conducted 5 days project designing and proposal development to its target CSOs. The training started on 20th April 2008 and ended on 24th April 2008. Total 20 participants (15 male, 5female) participated in the mentioned training. Palwasha Saboori director of Afghan Women Training & Development organization AWTDO that is one of ACSFo I-PACS target CSOs termed the training and TA provided by ACSFo on various topics like advocacy, human rights and proposal writing useful and productive she says:" After participating in this training a RFP was announced by German Embassy in Kabul , we submitted the concept paper for the mentioned RFP and after that we developed proposal, luckily the proposal was approved ,thus we won a construction project with a budget of 24460 US\$.The most important topics that were taught during this training were developing goals and objectives for a project." . Under this award the AWTDO was supposed to dig four wells, construct four bathrooms, and repair four bathrooms in Nursery School of Khoshal Meena District 5th of Kabul city as well as to renew the roof of the hall of the mentioned Nursery School. The project started on 10th October and ended 15 December and was implemented successfully. As a result of the implementation of the mentioned project the problems of drinking water, inexistence of roof and bathrooms of

540 students and the personnel of mentioned Nursery school were resolved. Najeebullah a student of this nursery school who was very happy of such positive change in their school said," before this we faced lots of problem, when it rained there was mud and due to no roof we in summer were use to sit in sun sometimes. Similarly due to unavailability of proper latrines and bathrooms we faced lots of problems and bad smells that spread and usually caused various diseases. Now with the construction of bathrooms, digging of wells and renewing roof of our school our problems have been resolved. He added that wealth and sound health is impossible without clean environment".

Success story:

Due to low capacity of civil society organizations and Afghan community about human rights and other social issues numerous social problems exist among Afghan community. Ahmad Zubir Farid who works in one of the Afghanistan Civil society Forum-organization target CSOs, Kabul Youth Civil Society Organization (KYCSO), as programme manager says that "due to lack of awareness about human rights and other social issues our society suffers lots of problems like gender based violence and etc...". He added "following three years of technical assistance and training provided by Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS) section to its target Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on various topics such as advocacy, human rights, proposal writing and etc... their capacity has been built enough. On 29th and 30th June ACSFo I-PACS section conducted human rights training to its target CSOs. Before participating in this training I and my other



colleagues didn't know about human rights and its various concepts like international human rights declaration, children rights convention and others a lot".

He says "after participating in this training I received enough information about human rights and its various declarations like international human rights declaration, children rights convention and etc". He added I conducted the mentioned training to our organization's personnel which was termed useful by them. Now I am able to design a set of activities and human rights language for project which's aim is networking to promote and practice human rights. We developed the proposal for the project of networking and practicing human rights and submitted it to Counterpart International

that was luckily approved". He elaborated that the mentioned project's budget was 51000 US\$. Under this award KYCSO was supposed to conduct 22 rounds trainings on human rights to Kabul University students. They learned a lot about human rights & shared them with their families that brought positive change in society. Students and authorities expressed joy for the conduction of mentioned training. Timur shah a student of law and political science faculty of The Kabul University said that" the mentioned training was very useful , I got a new idea about social problems that exists in our society and how to find the root causes of them as well as solution to them." He wished for the implementation of such projects in future as well.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SECTION

Introduction/overview

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) as a controlling medium for the first time in ACSFo was established on February 6, 2006 to monitor all on-going projects of ACSFo. Since then every single project of ACSFo has a monitoring component and requirement included in the project. The necessity of M&E activity was observed when SDC, the ACSFo core donor, perfected its evaluation on what the organization did in the past three years for civil society in general.

In fact the reason for establishing separate M&E section was to follow a more structured approach towards the project's successful implementation. Finally the section was officially established and introduced in 2008 and has been working for the following projects till now:

Parliamentary election in 28 provinces, civic education in 14 provinces, rule of law in 4 provinces, independent monitoring in 33 provinces, forced emigration in 15 provinces, Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS) in 15 provinces, I-PACS 10 re-grant projects in 4 provinces, Support The Election Process (STEP) in 3 provinces, community policing in 2 provinces, Oxfam Novib civic education in 26 provinces, civic education on presidential election in 7 provinces, and implementation and monitoring of a research project on election in 34 provinces. Some mentioned projects like I-PACS, STEP, and community policing are still on going and being monitored by this section.

Goal:

To ensure transparency and improve the possible impact and positive outcome of projects and programmes.

Objectives:

1. To support project's implementation by conducting periodic monitoring of the project's progress and providing constructive feedbacks to ACSFo.
2. To purchase and install monitoring and evaluation database for ACSFo project

Project wise M&E Activities and Achievements:

1. Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS) Training Monitoring:

1.1 Main Activity:

Considering I-PACS 2009 annual work plan of training, M&E section monitored 11 trainings conducted by I-PACS project. Totally 192 participants (150 male and 42 female) from different I-PACS partner ISOs and CSOs participated in the above capacity building trainings.

M&E section has provided I-PACS project with monthly and quarterly monitoring reports through 2009. During the monitoring mission M&E section has taken photos from the monitoring sessions as well as commonly filled 4 different M&E forms.



I-PACS, Kabul, Khalid



I-PACS, Kabul, Sultani

Considering M&E rule and regulation one Training Monitoring (TM) form was filled by M&E staff and the other forms like Trainer Biography (TB), Trainees List (TL), Training Debriefing (TD), and Training Evaluation were filled by both participants' responsible trainers.

Data entry (M&E gathered data from 11 trainings) in Management Information System (MIS) has timely taken place as planned by Counterpart International (CPI).

1.2 Training and event Monitoring Achievements:

M&E section monitored the following 11 trainings conducted by I-PACS, which is listed in detail as follows:

Table of I-PACS Project Monitored Trainings

No	Training Name	Monitoring Date	Male Participants	Female Participants
1	Human Rights	02/19/2009	18	8
2	Human Rights & General Administration	04/16/2009	13	1
3	Human Rights	04/20/2009	10	0
4	Human Rights	04/20/2009	11	6
5	General Administration	05/25/2009	15	4
6	Human Resource and General Administration	05/26/2009	15	4

7	Basic Finance and Accounting	06/11/2009	18	2
8	Human Rights	06/30/2009	10	5
9	Basic Advocacy	10/12/2009	8	4
10	Community Human Rights Identification Issues Solution	11/12/2009	15	3
11	Advocacy	11/18/2009	17	5
Total			150	42

Referring to the under table the 5 different M&E forms are shown which are filled during monitoring of 11 trainings conducted by ACSF- I-PACS project and monitored by M&E section.

Table of M&E forms filled/used in 2009

No.	Training Name	No. Of Form 1TT	No. Of Form 1TB	No. Of Form 1TD	No. Of Form 1TL	No. Of Form 1TM
1	Human Rights	26	2	1	2	0
2	Human Rights and General Administration	14	2	1	2	0
3	Human Rights	10	2	1	1	0
4	Human Rights	17	2	1	2	0
5	General Administration	19	2	1	2	0
6	Human Resources and General Administration	19	2	1	2	0

7	Basic Finance and Accounting	20	2	2	2	1
8	Basic Advocacy	12	2	1	2	0
9	Human Rights	15	2	1	2	0
10	Community Human Rights Identification Issues Solution	18	2	1	2	0
11	Advocacy	22	2	1	2	0
Total		192	22	11	22	1

1.3 Success story:

Considering I-PACS project organization development (OD) assessment plan ACSFo's M&E and I-PACS manager, CPI senior training coordination officer and CPI OD officer made a field visit to Parwan province on November 11, 2009.

The aim of the this mission was to assess Afghan United Women Organization(AUWO) abilities after receiving different capacity building from ACSFo I-PACS project. The team made an official open interview with the mentioned organization acting managing director, M&E officer and a person from administration.

They were all satisfied with the trainings received from ACSFo I-PACS project funded by CPI. They obviously stated that their staffs' capacities have been built in different fields of working like developing new concept and proposal, developing financial and progress report, conducting training and monitoring and so on.

The acting managing director of the organization added that after receiving project design and proposal writing (PDPW) training from I-PACS they could develop several proposals to different donors and even some of them successfully found specific fund for projects. Now they are on the position to develop a complete proposal in order to receive fund.

1.4 Lesson learnt:

The important lessons that M&E staffs have learnt or received from their mission during monitoring of I-PACS trainings was to check the M&E forms (1TT) one by one before collecting them from participants. Missing/not filling some blanks/cells or what a participant means by writing such statement has to be checked in deep and then collected. With this, the data entry process can be followed easily.

1.5 Challenges:

M&E staffs faced the following difficulties/problems while monitoring I-PACS training or activities which are bulleted as below:

1. Giving the same number or grade to trainers without thinking on their knowledge differences
2. Filling the M&E forms in a few minutes for leaving the session as soon as possible
3. Not checking their statements for amending some missing or mistakes if any
4. Not having continuous access to CPI MIS for data entry as usually it is slow or not accessible
5. Not receiving quick response from CPI in case of being faced with problem in data entry(specially in entering form TL) and standard names

2. Support the election process (STEP)

2.1 Main activities:

Support The Election Process (STEP), is another project, the activities of which are monitored by M&E section continuously. M&E section’s monitoring officers participated in 90 civic education secessions in this reporting period (from April 8 to December 21, 2009) both in Kabul and Parwan provinces and totally 2377(2016male and 361 female) individuals were monitored. 9 districts and 15 Nahias in Kabul and 3 districts in the centre (Charekar city) of Parwan province were visited by M&E section monitoring officers. M&E section received 45 weakly reports from its monitoring officers and after compiling them it was provided to STEP project with 7 complete monthly reports.



STEP, Kabul, Bahar



STEP, Nahia 7, Mateen

M&E manager participated in one day lessons learnt training on July 23 conducted by STEP project. And two field visits were conducted by M&E staffs to Istalif district of Kabul province and Bagram district of Parwan province on July 4 and 21 respectively. Visitation plan, M&E plan, and M&E action plan for 2010 of STEP project were developed by M&E section manager.

2.2 Achievements:

The following information on target areas, monitored sessions, male, and female participants are shown in the following table as the important achievement of the project.

Provinces	No. Of Nahias and Districts	No. Of Monitored Sessions	No. Of Male Participants	No. Of Female Participants
Kabul	14N and 9 D	71	1461	241
Parwan	Charekar City and 3 D	19	555	120

2.3 Success story:

It is narrated from a rural individual resident of Mirbachacot district of Kabul province during face to face sessions. Before receiving civic education inputs he thought that only government authorities have the right to nominate themselves to be as a people representative or president not all the people of a country. It is worth mentioning that after receiving civic education during face to face sessions of this project, the person’s ideas and thoughts have changed in this regard. Now he is thinking different as even he has the right to nominate himself to all kinds of elections as an aware citizen.

No	Provinces	No of Conducted Trainings	No of Participants	Remarks
1	Parwan	2	211	
2	Bamyan	1	107	
3	Panjsher	1	43	
4	Kapisa	2	174	
5	Logar	3	111	
6	Ghazni	9	375	
7	Paktia	4	95	
8	Khost	3	158	
90	Patika	2	30	
10	Zabul	2	8	
11	Kandahar	0	0	Not conducted
12	Nemrooz	1	25	
13	Urazgan	0	0	Not conducted
14	Farah	3	57	
15	Hirat	4	599	
16	Ghore	1	39	
17	Badghis	1	31	
18	Faryab	1	59	
19	Jawzjan	3	171	
20	Balkh	7	402	
21	Saripul	1	20	
22	Samangan	1	59	
23	Baghlan	7	329	
24	Kundoz	3	249	
25	Takhar	5	281	
26	Badakhshan	5	228	
27	Nooristan	0	0	insecure
28	Dykundi	2	23	
29	Kunar	2	123	
30	Nangarhar	2	334	
31	Laghman	1	134	

32	Maidan w	5	181	
33	Helmand	1	61	
Total No		86	4717	

2.4 Lesson learnt:

The lesson learnt from this civic education programme was to conduct female sessions by female trainers and male sessions by male trainers in remote districts of Kabul province. We had a field visit to Istalif district of Kabul province on July 4 of 2009. A female trainer conducted a male session inside a mosque which was criticized by the male participants and even they wanted to leave the session.

2.5 Challenges:

Followings are the challenges faced during the implementation of the project:

- Insecure conditions for conducting sessions in some target areas (Maidan wordak...)
- Criticism from government authorities.
- Lack of specific venue for conducting civic education to be assessable for all participants
- Not reaching the specific benchmarks indentified in activity plan

Independent Monitoring Project (IMP):

3.1 Main activities:

Independent Monitoring was a project funded by The Asia Foundation (TAF) and implemented by Ministry of Education throughout the country.TAF made a contract with ACSFo to monitor the project independently in 33 provinces of the country as Kabul province was monitored by Secondary Education Department (SED). This project continued from May1 to August 31, 2009. Considering monitoring and evaluation M&E section managed this project by 42 provincial monitors in 33 provinces. The mobile monitors in the provinces were responsible to keep contact with provincial education departments and report conducted trainings by Ministry of Education (MoE) lead trainers.

Considering the reporting format designed by TAF, M&E section received weakly reports from its provincial officer and after compiling, it was sent to donor in a monthly base as well as a final report was developed and delivered to donor, TAF.

Keeping contacts with the monitoring officers was ensured by phone calls and email. M&E section sent and received all working contracts after signing by the mobile monitors as well as sending and arranging their salaries through Kabul bank sub offices in the provinces.

At the end of the project there were 30 evaluation forms collected from the provinces and M&E section consolidated and analyzed them as a result of the project for the donor.

3.2 Achievements:

The following table shows the total and specific number of conducted trainings and participants in each of 33 provinces of the country.

3.3 Success story:

It is narrated by our mobile monitor (Misbahhuddin) from Paktia province that a huge number of students of class 12 from different high school participated in the teacher's ToT training in this province.

And they said that this training will help them to know what the nationwide examination for entering the University means and how to be prepared for.

3.4. Lessons learnt:

The first lessons we learned from this project was to have or hire just one mobile monitor for each province as there is no supervision from monitors' attendance. And it would be very difficult to manage them by mobile from main office. The second important lesson we learnt is to have field visits from target areas and monitoring activities considering M&E rule and regulation. We learnt to conduct orientation training for those monitors who have not monitored any activity.

3.5. Challenges:

- It was impossible to implement/monitor such activities in insecure target areas (eg. Nooristan).
- Luck of field visits from the site made lots of concerns and difficulties.
- Some provincial education departments like in Kandahar paid no attention to this activity and even embezzled the budgeted fund of this activity.
- Some other provincial education departments like of Nangarhar, Laghman, Badghis, Hirat, and Kunar did not pay attention to inform all selected teachers to participate in the trainings.
- The amount of considered per diem (\$15 per participants) was not enough for some districts of some provinces (eg. Badakhshan, Paktika, Ghor...).

Civic education to support presidential election:

This project was implemented by ACSFo civic education section in 7 south & south west provinces of (Khost, Paktia, Ghazni, Uruzgan, Helmand, Kandahar, and Nimroz) and monitored by M&E section with 7 coordinators who were selected locally.

M&E section managed the project by the selected coordinators in contact with the M&E section by sending email and making phone calling in case of being faced with problem. Mobile monitors had provided M&E section by sending monitoring weekly report and the section was to compile the reports and send them to civic education section.

M&E manager participated in the lessons learnt gathering conducted by ACSFo civic education at the end of the project.

Miscellaneous achievements:

M&E manager received 5 days of Good Governance training conducted by CPAU and funded by USAID and a one day strategy workshop conducted and financed by ACSFo in this reporting period (6/15/2009-12/15/2009).

The result of the strategy workshop was worked out and sent to all ACSFo managers. In civil society conference which was conducted by ACSFo and funded by different donors on December 15, M&E section manager participated as facilitator and organizer during two full days of conference. M&E staffs participated in two monthly capacity building monitoring sessions headed by CPI and AWEC to enhance their professional knowledge. M&E manager developed four M&E plans and mechanisms for new concepts and proposals of ACSFo developed by different section.

PEACE BUILDING SECTION

Introduction:

The ACSFO Peace Building Department was established in February 2006 based on the dire need for conflict transformation and Peace Building in Afghanistan. While considerable efforts have been made by various players in rebuilding the physical infrastructure of Afghanistan, comparatively little support was provided to reinstate the social fabric after decades of war. With the support of a Peace Building Expert seconded by the German Development Service (DED) first the capacity of ACSFo staff and then of ACSFo partner was built in Peace Building and conflict transformation. To rehabilitate the minds and souls might take several generations and it is a process where success is intangible, unlike building a bridge or school and thus, it is difficult to measure. However, it is strongly believed that there is no sustainable development without peace.

Goal/ Objectives

The Peace Building section aims to contribute to the Peace Building process in Afghanistan. The specific objectives are as follows:

- 1.1. To establish and maintain a Peace Building Department in ACSFo.
- 1.2. To build up capacity of ACSFo staff in Peace Building& Conflict Transformation.
- 1.3. To build up capacity of ACSFo partner organizations and enable them to conduct Peace Building workshops in the field.
- 1.4. To strengthen the coordination mechanisms among the organizations in the field of Peace Building and to mainstream the Peace Building process.
- 1.5. To raise awareness with and among ACSFo partner Organizations through joint countrywide Peace Building activities.
- 1.6. To promote culture of peace through celebration of national peace day with ACSONP leading organization.

Activities and Achievements

Implementing the Peace Building strategy

The work structure of Peace Building in ACSFo, the Peace Building strategy paper, was developed in 2008, in line with the vision and mission statement of ACSFO.

The Peace Building department operates in two directions: internally and outreaching. In the short and middle term it conveys the messages on conflict transformation and Peace Building to the staff of ACSFO to be incorporated in the project work and for an improved handling of internal conflicts. In the middle and long run it works on capacity building of members and partner organizations and by that indirectly strengthens peace potentials in the population. A manual for training sessions for senior and field staff of members consisting of different modules will be developed. The manual will be adapted continuously.

Moreover the Peace Building department advocates for Peace Building and support the existing network structures of Afghan Civil Society Organizations Network for Peace (ACSONP).

Peace Building trainings for ACSFO partners and members in Kabul

Based on the Peace Building section's goal and objectives, ACSFo HQ Peace Building department along with the cooperation of civic education and capacity building conducted 14 Peace Building trainings to ACSFo partner and member organization staff in 2009.

The target beneficiaries included political parties, school cultural committees, youth advocacy committees, resource centre members and I-PACS partner civil society organizations (CSOs). In total the numbers of participants were 223.

Peace Building trainings in provinces

According to the Peace Building work plan 7 Peace Building trainings were conducted in the provinces (Balkh, Bamiyan, Gardez and Nangarhar).

The aim of these trainings was to raise the awareness of participants on Peace Building and to deliver the information to the wide range of the community through them.

The target beneficiaries were identified based on round table discussions in each province and included school and university teachers and students, community elders, Mullahs, human rights activists, social workers, provincial council members and other governmental employees.

Peace Building and conflict transformation were the main content of the trainings conducted by ACSFO Peace Building officers and focal points in their related provinces.

The participants highly appreciated such trainings on provincial basis, in which most of the participants attended for the first time. They requested for expansion of such training in districts and villages where most of people are illiterate and are mostly involved in family violence and violence against women and children.



As a total 99 individuals received Peace Building trainings in above mentioned four provinces by the end of the project.

Contribution to Celebration of National Peace day

As an active member of ACSNP, ACSFo contributed to the celebration of national peace day with FCCS (ACSONP leading organization for peace day celebration in 2009).

During year 2009, ACSFo HQ Peace Building department supported ACSNP through exchange of information and submitting peace day related documents to leading organization and regularly participated in monthly and extra ordinary meetings and press conferences conducted by ACSNP.



RESEARCH SECTION

Background:

Realizing the need of social research activities, ACSFo established its Research Section in the year 2002. The section collaborated with the organizations which have the same vision and mission as that of ACSFo. It provides research and information to foundations and organizations planning programmes for the empowerment of civil society by acquiring, developing, archiving, disseminating data, documentation and obtaining the resources necessary for accomplishment of these activities.

One of the core activities of ACSFo Research Section for the coming five years is to focus on the following issues namely,

- **Poverty,**
- **Security,**
- **Family violence,**
- **Education**
- **Youth issues,**
- **Citizenship**
- **Government policy and effectiveness and**
- **Demography and census.**

The Research Section will have an eye on the mentioned activities and will prepare reports in the context of civil society of Afghanistan. The reports will form the policies of ACSFo towards its mission of “To boost Afghan citizens’ informed participation in political and social development of Afghanistan”.

ACSFo has been involved in some research activities in the past on a very ad-hoc basis till 2006. The result of the few researches that involved ACSFo has been very good and satisfactory to partner organizations. It provided an opportunity to open a partnership with many other sister organizations in different research activities. Namely the Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), Swiss Peace, Counterpart International (CPI), The Asia Foundation (TAF), International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Fredrick Ebert Stiftung (FES), Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS), Oxfam Novib, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP and few others.

Goal/Objectives/Values:

Goal:

The goal of the research section of ACSFo is “**Research for Development and Empowerment of Afghan Civil Society**”.

Objectives:

The objectives of the research section are as follows,

- To advance the social well being of civil society through scientific studies and application of the knowledge gained there from.
- To analyze, define, design, develop, implement, and assimilate data.
- To serve as an Afghan national institution and source for professional working in the field of research.

Values:

From principle point of view, the Research Section believes in the following values,

- Search for Right,
- Civil Empowerment,

- Democracy,
- Human Rights,
- Impartiality,
- Independence,
- Transparency,
- Accountability,
- Awareness

Research Section activities overtime:

ACSFo Research Section has implemented the assessment project in partnership with international counterparts. Five research assignments and four books have been published so far. A brief of the activities are as follows,

I. MISERIOR 2003

MISERIOR and ACSFo implemented the assessment project in partnership which involved ‘Development of a Standardized Human Rights Curriculum and Training materials’ in Afghanistan. 150 organizations have been assessed in the process.

II. UN SC Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security Issues and Instruments-The Afghan Context - December 2004

International Alert (IA) and ACSFo had implemented the feasibility study in partnership. The goal of the project was to meet with a number of organizations including women’s groups and other NGOs, research institutes, the UN and government officials to explore issues affecting women’s peace and security in the Afghan context and to establish the level of awareness of resolution 1325 among women and women organizations.

III. Forced Migration Survey 2005

The goal of the project was experimenting untested hypothesis of refugee exodus (and choices) using first hand data. The experiences of people at the national, regional and local levels with focus on examination of the multiple variables that affects displacement have been searched for. 900 questionnaires were filled in all the 34 provinces. Last three decades (1970-2000) of Afghanistan was target period of the research.

IV. London Consultation Conference Data Analysis and Reporting (2006).

UNDP and ACSFo implemented the project in partnership which involved 2-3 hours interview with 1200 persons and civil society entities in each of the 34 provinces. A handful of the participants was also introduced for participating in London Conference.

V. International Conference on Civil Society Development in Afghanistan – Dec 2006

The goal of the project was how to assess the growth of civil society in Afghanistan after accomplishments of the milestones set in Bonn Conference. The challenges and opportunities in the way were assessed and solutions were also recommended. 110 Afghan, expatriate experts and representatives from civil society participated in the conference.

Research Publication:

The following books have been published by ACSFo in partnership with Afghan intellectuals and international counterparts,

- a. Democracy and Civil Society in Afghanistan.
- b. The platforms of Afghanistan’s First Presidential Elections’ Candidates.
- c. Perspective on Civil Society
- d. Situation of media in Afghanistan.

Research Section Achievements 2009:

- I. **Tactical Conflict Assessment and Planning Framework (TCAPF) Jalrez and Nirkh districts of Wardak Province funded by DAI:**

The Tactical Conflict Assessment and Planning Framework (TCAPF), a survey tool, developed to assist U.S. Forces, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), and other provincial actors in Afghanistan to plan interventions that are both community-oriented and supported by the population to promote stability in their area of operations. The TCAPF questionnaire consists of 4 simple questions that captured the essence of community development and prioritized the biggest problems faced by the local population:

1. Have there been changes in the village population in the last year? WHY?
2. What are the most important problems facing the village?
3. Who do you believe can solve your problems? WHY?
4. What should be done first to help the village? WHY?

LGCD sought to engage rural district populations through a rapid TCAPF survey that would gather information about the root causes of community problems and how they should be addressed.



I. Goal:

Compilation, analyzation and summarization of these information in the form of a report, to be distributed (by LGCD) to all stakeholders operating in Wardak province.

II. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this project were to:

- Conduct a survey that is representative of the geographic, tribal, and ethnic diversity of the target districts using the TCAPF questionnaire in 60 villages of Jalrez (30) and Nirkh districts (30);
- Create spreadsheets in Excel that will present this data.

III. Major activities:

- Preparation of “List of issues of concern in the context of conflicts”.

- Development of research questionnaires
- Filling questionnaires:
- Developing database:
- Identification of primary messages:
- Data analysis/desk research
- Compilation of research report:

IV. Achievements

a. Output:

These surveys, through representative village sampling, rapidly gathered information on village needs in Jalrez and Nirkh districts of Wardak province in order to inform future USAID, PRT and other stakeholder's programming in the area. The survey project was implemented in 20 days in a highly insecure and anti government dominated districts of Maidan Wardak province.

b. Outcome:

The research project implemented has formed a thirty five pages survey report.

c. Impact:

Tactical Conflict Assessment and Planning Framework-TCAPF survey report provide an assessment of the people of district Jalrez and Nirkh in the context of peace and security issues. The recommendations in this research report will capture the attention of other stakeholders working in this area and it will be easy for any ???

V. Lessons learnt

- Jalrez and Nirkh have displayed a very bleak picture of insecurity and lawlessness.
- This is quite alarming that the majority of the people, in order to have something to eat, try to join the militants.
- The people are deeply scared of both The Taliban and foreign troops because they find themselves helpless in front of them.

VI. Success Story:

At the initial stage, the surveyors before going into field received orientation training in which they were taught the very basic techniques of survey. This was practically demonstrated and by applying these techniques they solved problems during the survey at field level.

VII. Challenges

1. Security was one of the greatest challenges in the province of Wardak.
2. Propagation of the survey in the targeted area made survey dangerous
3. Lack of transportation facilities
4. Taking Photos was a big problem
5. Mobile and phone service were not available in certain areas.
6. Surveyors were reluctant to disclose their location

II. Kunar Construction Centre (KCC) graduates Follow-up Survey (DAI):

The Capacity Development Programme (CDP), a USAID-funded programme implemented by BearingPoint (now Deloitte), established and is operating the Kunar Construction Centre (KCC) in Shigal district, Kunar province. The centre offers students a 3-month course in one of six vocation (painting, masonry, steel bar bending, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical systems repair). Since the centre opened in March 2008, 4 batch have been graduated.



One of KCC's strongest features is that jobs will be available to its graduates. Before each course starts, an assessment is done of the need for skilled labour in the six targeted areas. In addition, one of the centre's measurements of success is that the earning potential of its graduates, merely three months after graduation, is higher than what the students earned before taking the KCC training courses.

The Survey of KCC graduates was implemented in three provinces i.e., **Kunar, Laghman** and **Nuristan**. The objective of the project was to find out the impact of the vocational training project implemented by Kunar Construction Centre (KCC).



The KCC has given skills trainings to 390 participants in six different categories, i.e. plumbing, masonry, electrical system repairing, steel bar bending, painting and carpentry. Each course had three months duration. The goal was to interview 50% target beneficiaries. Out of 390 graduates 261 graduates were surveyed which constitutes 66.9% of the total number. ACSFo implemented the research survey in the 17 districts.

Activities:

- **Field survey:**

The survey was conducted in 17 district of Kunar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces. 261 graduates have been surveyed with the help of 10 field surveyors.

- **Database development and data entry:** A database was developed and all the questionnaires have been entered into the database.
- **Reports of the database:** The reports from the database have been extracted in accordance with the needs and requirements of the research report.
- **Research Report of the survey:** The research final report of the survey has been compiled and submitted to DAI.

I. Goal:

- 1) To assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to be able to extend its reach into unstable areas and engage at-risk populations by building the capacity of provincial and local government officials to deliver services and address citizen needs;
- 2) To create an environment that encourages local communities to take an active role in their own development.

II. Objectives:

To conduct interviews with a purpose sample of the first three classes of KCC graduates (390 students) to assess the impact the KCC programme on their employment opportunities and earning potential.

III. Activities:

- Framing list of issues and study research
- Questionnaire development
- Field survey:
- Database development and data entry:
- Reports of the database:
- Research Report of the survey:

IV. Achievements:

A. Output:

The project provided an objective and comprehensive tool for the Kunar Construction Centre and other stakeholders to gauge the effectiveness of its programme in terms of preparing graduates for employment and increasing their earning potential.

B. Outcome:

- Delivered complete raw results of the survey, including cross-tabs.
- Drafted a final report that summarizes the survey results in terms of employment and earning potential of graduates
- Provided recommendations for improvements in KCC's operations

C. Impact:

The implementation of the survey project not only made a follow up of the graduates profile before and after receiving graduation from the KCC but it will also affect the KCC operational aspect to be more positively focused by the programme in the long run.

V. Lessons learnt

The majority of the graduates said that their income has increased. One of the graduates told us that “I was unemployed which was a matter of great concern for my family. My father did not accept me any longer at home. Since I have been trained by KCC, I got a job now and have respect both at home and in the village”.

The data has revealed that the average income of the graduates before training was 2,211.5 Afs while after training the results show that their average income increased to 6,686.6 Afs, more than three times than before.

VI. Success story

ACSFo implemented the survey through its regional office in Jalalabad. The field staff under the supervision of Regional Manager smoothly conducted the survey and there was no as such difficulty reported throughout the whole implementation of the project.

VII. Challenges

1. Security was a challenge in some of the districts.
2. Accessibility to the graduates was a challenge
3. Communication was not possible in certain areas.

III. Cost of War Research in Parwan, Paktia & Bamyan Province funded by Oxfam Novib:

This research was jointly designed and carried out by the following organizations: Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo), Afghan Peace and Democracy Act (APDA), Association for the Defense of Women's Rights (ADWR), Cooperation Centre

for Afghanistan (CCA), Education Training Centre for Poor Women and Girls of Afghanistan (ECW), Oxfam GB, Organization for Human Welfare (OHW) and Sanayee Development Organization (SDO).

To better understand how Afghans have experienced and understand the conflict, eight non-governmental organizations operating in Afghanistan conducted research in 14 provinces across the country. This research focused on individual experiences of the past thirty years of conflict, perceptions of the current conflict and recommendations for alleviating the violence and addressing its root causes.

Objective

The core objective of this project was to conduct research of the consequences of three decades of war in Afghanistan as expressed by Afghan men, women and young people. To use this as a basis for putting pressure on the current warring parties to mitigate the impact of conflict, and to promote peace.

Major activities:

The research involved the following main activities

- Conducted interviews with 150 individuals,
- Conducted 15 focus group discussions,
- Participation of the field data collectors in follow up workshop
- Participation in analysis of the questionnaire.

Achievements:

A. Output:

To use the research report as a basis for putting pressure on the current warring parties to mitigate the impact of conflict, and to promote peace.

B. Outcome:

A final research report was compiled.

C. Impact:

Based on the survey report new strategy of Oxfam Novib will be designed in the long run

Lessons learnt:

Afghanistan's instability began in the late 1970s, with the overthrow of the Daoud Khan in 1978 and the subsequent invasion by Soviet forces in 1979. As mujahadeen resistance groups grew in strength, waging guerrilla warfare and drawing Soviet forces further into the conflict, the abuses committed by both sides intensified. In the years of conflict that followed, more than 870,000 Afghans were killed, 3 million were maimed or wounded, a million were internally displaced and over 5 million were forced to flee the country.

Success story:

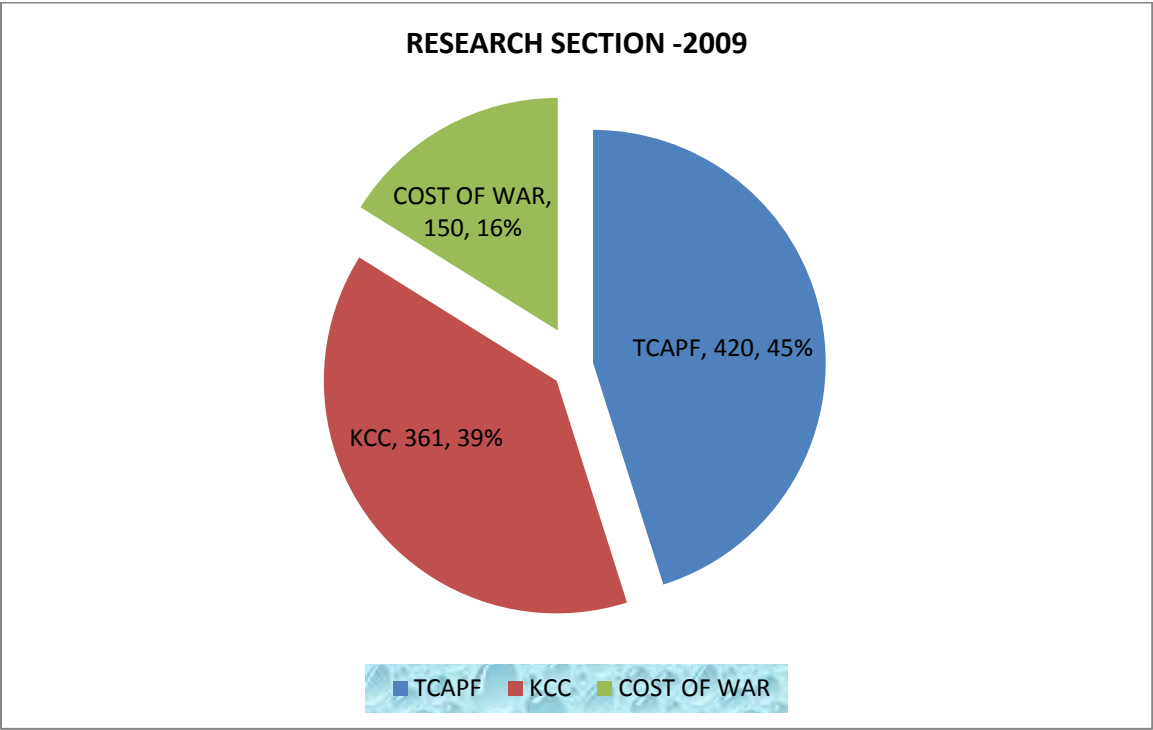
Male and female researchers were assigned in each province to gain community acceptance and ensure that respondents felt comfortable speaking openly. Field researchers were also given training on conducting interviews and group discussions. Individuals were selected at random for interviews and group discussions.

Challenges:

- Security was a big challenge for the field staff
- The conflict information collection were a sensitive job
- Accessibility to some areas was another challenge

An overview of the Research Section's 2009 projects:

Research section’s activities during the year 2009 are represented in the following chart which point towards the research project with the number of respondents interviewed and its percentage;



SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS (STEP)

Introduction:

ACSFo seeks to raise public awareness of and create discussions around all aspects of electoral process by supporting initiatives developed by Afghan communities and civil society nationwide, so that voters are better prepared for, and participate more actively in the upcoming electoral events. ACSFo through its network of civil society organizations was an active element of these efforts. ACSFo has covered three provinces namely Kabul, Maidan Wardak and Parwan. Thirteen CSOs have been involved in implementation of this project in the above mentioned provinces. Due to security reasons only four districts of Maidan Wardak were covered. The four districts of Behsud I, Behsud II, Chack and Daimirdad were targeted in the year 2009 STEP project activity. At the end of the project on 22nd of December 2009) 3768 sessions were conducted in above three mentioned provinces and through the mentioned sessions 125,994 (25,205 female) individuals were met in this outreach programme.

- Contract of STEP project was signed on 8 April 2009 between ACSFo and CPI STEP. A tentative work plan was drafted for practical work on the ground and 13 CSOs were sub-contracted in this regard. Every CSO was asked to draft a work plan and share with STEP project team for consolidating and coordination purpose. CSOs were submitting their work plans monthly and following are their activities accordingly. They also submitted their activity report at the end of every week. Activity reports of all CSOs were incorporated in a consolidated report for CPI STEP.
- The project was smoothly going on, but we faced a little bit security problems in the Daimirdad and Chack districts. The local authority and influential people were not willing to cooperate with STEP project's activity in the area, but our civic educators were able to conduct the sessions in an indirect method. The civic educators were enough educated in Islamic issues and they first were used to discuss the Islamic issues and establish contact with and build the trust with participants. At the end of the sessions they were able to convey the electoral messages to them. Those civic educators who were conducting sessions in the mentioned districts spent more times comparing to others.
- Security was not bad in the targeted areas but sometimes the civic educators faced security challenges. Some districts in Kabul province had fragile security situation and fortunately it was not permanent. In the insecure districts the government oppositions spread night letters and warned the governmental and non-governmental staff to stop the activity in the area especially those activities which supported the electoral process, Anyhow the civic educators continued their activities.
- Using local resources and influential staff for supporting the STEP project was the useful and interesting methodology in 2009 and we believe that continuing this methodology will be useful for the next years; in 2009 we focused more to the existing Shuras in the districts because the members of these Shuras represent the whole community.

Province	District	Partners/CSOs	Civic Educators		
			M	F	Sub total
67	Paghman	AABRAR		Farida Anwary	1
	Sorobi	AABRAR	Farid Barakzai		1
	Mosahiee	AABRAR	Hamid Agha		1
	Nahia 7	ABBRAR		Sharifa Sherzad	1
	Nahia 8	AABRAR		Sharifa Sherzad	0
	Nahia 14	AABRAR		Sharifa Sherzad	0
	Nahia 1	ACBO	Ab. Raqib Yousufzai		1
	Nahia 2	ACBO	Ab. Raqib Yousufzai		
	Nahia 3	ACBO	Ab. Raqib Yousufzai		
	Nahia 4	ACBO	Ab. Raqib Yousufzai		
	Nahia 9	ACBO	Ab. Latif Amini		1
	Nahia 18	ACBO	Ab. Latif Amini		
	Bagrami	ACBO	Ab. Latif Amini	Ustad Fazela	2
	Dehsabz	ACBO	Ab. Latif Amini	Wahida	1
	Shakardara	ARHSO	Dr. Ab. Wasi	Arifa	2
	Mirbachakot	ARHSO	Sayed Basir		1
	Nahia 5	ARHSO	S. Ghulam Naqshban		1
	Nahia 6	ARHSO	Ghulam Hussain		1
	Estalif	SUWA	Ab. Khaliq Stanakzai	Shabnam Hamraz	2
	Khak-e-Jabar	SUWA	Ashraf	Farida Abid	2
	Farza	AWTDO	Ab. Rashid Wahab	Nadia Tabish	2
	Kalakan	AWTDO	Ab. Rashid Wahab	Nadia Tabish	0
	Gul Dara	AWTDO	Ab. Rashid Wahab	Nadia Tabish	0
	Charasiab	HAM	Nasratullah Ashkan	Sabira	2
	Qarabagh	HAM	Jarullah		1
	Nahia 13	KCSF	Sultan Soroush		1
	Nahia 15	KCSF	Asadullah Azrakhsh		1
	Nahia 16	KCSF	Sultan Soroush		0

	Nahia 17	KCSF	Asadullah Azrakhsh		0
	Nahia 11	AF	Kazim Nabawi		1
	Nahia 12	AF	Kazim Nabawi		0
	Nahia 10	AWRO	Ghulam Ali Parwiz		1
Parwan	Salang	AWRO	Abdul Hakim	Latifa	2
	Sayed Khail	AWRO	Torialai Amini	Fazila	2
	Shaikh Ali	AUWO		Zakia Sangeen	1
	Surkhparisa	AUWO	Abdul Rahim		1
	Koh-e-Safi	AUWO	Abdul Rahim		
	Charikar	AUWO	Abdul Rahim	Zakia Sangeen	0
	Shinwari	AUWO	Abdul Rahim	Pashto on	1
	Jabalussaraj	PWSDU	S.Ekram Ofyani	Hafiza	2
	Seyagird	PWSDU	Abdul Wahab		1
	Bagram	Shura Khanaqa	Asif & Jamaluddin		2
Maidan Wardak	Behsud I	AF	Namatullah Farisa		1
	Behsud II	AF	Farid Hasrat		1
	Chack	WYCS	Ahamad Shah	Benafsha	2
	Daimirdad	WYCS	Wahidullah		1
TOTAL					43

Table.1 Summary of CSOs' activities, allocated Civic educators and coverage areas

1. Project

The CPI STEP Programme aims to generate discussion and awareness around on-going electoral processes, which culminated in various electoral events in 2009. Through this partnership agreement, CSOs at across the country will be mobilized to implement a diverse campaign of elections related public outreach activities and awareness-raising events, while ensuring that electoral officials at all levels are informed and involved to ensure dissemination of accurate and up-to-date information.

CPI STEP seeks to raise public awareness of the community and create discussions around all aspects of electoral process by supporting initiatives developed by Afghan communities and civil society nationwide, so that voters are better prepared for, and participate more actively in the upcoming electoral process. CPI STEP through its 9 partners of civil society organizations will act as an active element of these efforts. CPI STEP will cover 8 regions through its partners.

CPI STEP's additional awareness rising through conducting F2F sessions will also be implemented with some other media activities nationwide as well. It is worth mentioning that the media activity will be in print and audio records. As of audio programmes, some round tables, dramas and Public Services Announcements (PSA) were broadcasted through TV and radio.. In field of printing media, posters, pamphlets, brochures were distributed to the community according the work plan which was prepared by partner organizations.

CPI STEP was active in the gender related issues during 2009. A gender section has been established in the CPI STEP organization and has initiated some important activities. A gender rapid survey has been conducted by this organization and hopefully an analytical report will be prepared.

Project Management and Accomplishments

3768 sessions were conducted during the year 2009. 43 civic educators were involved in this project (12 female and 31 male). They could meet 125,994 individuals (25205 female and 100789 male) during the F2F sessions and public meetings. The civic educators were able to travel around the targeted areas and conducted F2F sessions and hold public meetings in the 1826 villages under coverage areas of the STEP project from June to December 21st, 2009. All 46 districts including 18 Kabul city districts (Nahias) were covered in this awareness raising project. Beneficiaries were men and women from 14 districts of Kabul ,10 districts of Parwan and 4 districts of Maidan Wardak, but in the 18 districts of Kabul city (Nahias) only men were covered and women were under coverage of AWEC.

According to the plan, the maximum number of participant in one F2F session was 25 and number of participant in the public meeting was 60. In the beginning it was difficult to mobilize the mentioned number of participants in the sessions but later on the level of interest of the participants increased and more people attended the sessions. A work plan was developed for implementing the STEP project in all 46 districts of Kabul, Parwan and Maidan Wardak provinces. All 46 districts were covered with no change in the work plan of STEP project.

Capacity of the direct beneficiaries has improved and they were better prepared during the previous election. Cultural debates were going on during the project period and it was realized that participation of the community was better in comparison to previous elections. The civic educator group was more active than before and they applied useful and practical methodologies in this round of education process.

The civic educators were satisfied with the community contribution to the civic education process and they realized that the community mobilization had improved.

Based on reports from the field culture debates were conducted amongst the beneficiaries and hot discussions were carried on the electoral process. First it was difficult to identify 25 individuals and to invite them in the F2F sessions, but the level of interest increased and more people attended the sessions. Based on our work plan, the project was supposed to cover 93,000 individuals but the real figure covered was 125,994 individuals which is far greater than the planned estimate.

One of our civic educators from Estalif district quoted a 120 years old woman who said, "I wish to be alive during upcoming election to participate and vote". Actually the old woman had attended one of the sessions and she perceived her obligation in respect to her country and current political situation. From the mentioned message it was understood that the sessions positively affected the direct and indirect beneficiaries.

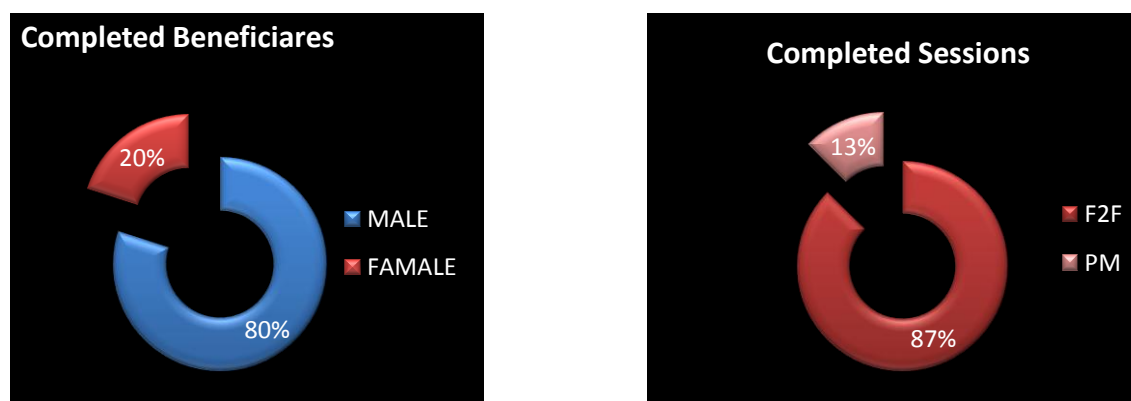


Figure.1 .2 completed sessions and beneficiaries.

Staffing

Project staffing started soon after the approval of the project and completed within the month of April 2009. All STEP project positions were announced and numbers of CVs were collected. A recruitment team was specified and they were asked to screen the CVs and short list the most qualified and educated ones and the same process was also applied by the CSOs for appointing the civic educators.

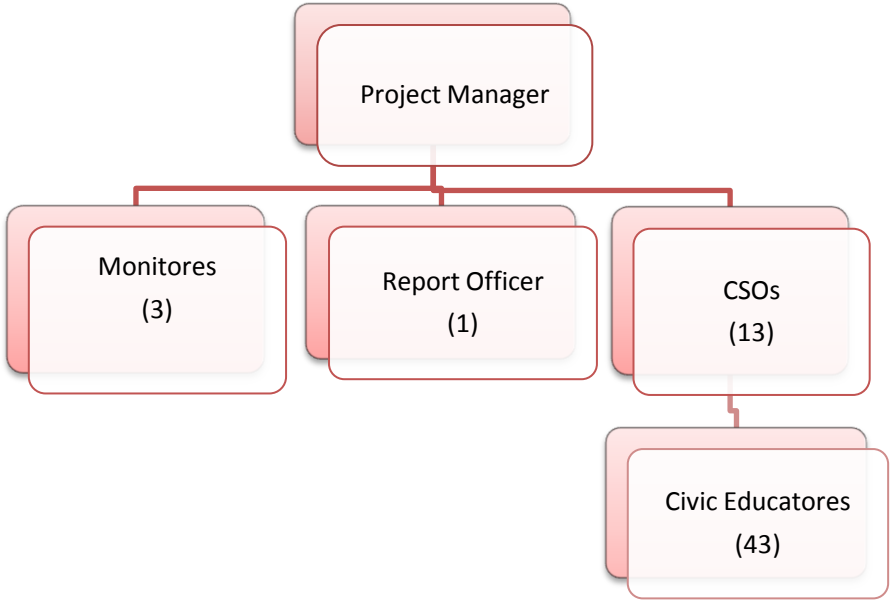
Three lead trainers were recruited at the beginning of the project and they continued their duties during project set up. Later on their position changed to monitoring officers. Ms. Masooda Wahidi was recruited as reporting officer and she resigned after a month.

Reporting officer post was vacant for three months and Ms. Muska Meeran was recruited for this post in September 2009. The STEP-project team consisted of a five-member team of three monitors, one report officer and a project manager. Project manager was assigned to lead the project performance and provide related advises to team in term of implementing the project. ACSFo recruited three lead trainers instead of two and they worked as monitors once the project was set up.

CSOs were selected based on their accessibility to the area and having enough human resources. The civic educators were recruited through CSOs with close cooperation of ACSFo. It is worth mentioning that their level of knowledge and experiences were seriously considered.

- 1- Project manager was assigned to manage all the activities in the project and lead the project team.
- 2- Monitors were assigned to conduct missions to the districts and monitor the conducting session process and provide monitoring report after each mission and share with M&E section and other stakeholders.
- 3- Report officer was assigned to collect the reports from the CSOs and incorporate and prepare the weekly, monthly and annual report to the donor.
- 4- CSOs were contracted to take of the civic education process in their related districts.
- 5- Civic educators were assigned to conduct sessions according the work plan which was prepared by ACSFo team.

Figure.3 STEP Project Structure



Public Outreach

According the tentative work plan of STEP project it was agreed to reach the following community categories:
Youth, Mullahs, Elders, Minorities, Women, Shuras/Councils.

Different methodologies were used for covering the above mentioned categories.

1. For covering the Mullahs/Ulema our civic educators or CSOs directors established contact with the Shura which are available in this regard. According the governmental structure a religious Shura exists at district level and these Shuras were used as reference for targeting the Mullahs and other Islamic scholars. Yet another methodology was also used to cover this category. Some of the civic educators attended the Friday prayers and asked Mullahs and other religious leaders to attend the sessions.
2. The civic educators were following the schedules of the NSP Shuras and after the Shura meetings they contacted the members and conveyed the STEP messages to them.
3. We planned to use the disabled and martyrs departments for targeting the disabled people, again our civic educators were successful in this regard and later one of the STEP partners was fully assigned to cover the people with disabilities.
4. Youth were targeted through the youth organizations, youth unions, schools and courses in the areas. The civic educators or the CSOs directors were in contact with the mentioned entities and prepared the training sessions schedules with them. It was realized that covering the youth category through the mentioned entities are useful and practical.
5. Women were covered through the women Shura, Schools and women projects which existed in the area and through house to house meetings.

It was understood that the mentioned methodologies were useful and ACSFo project team was able to meet the targeted beneficiaries during the project operation.

. Most of the civic educators and CSO directors were from the area where they conduct session. Being from the targeted area was another advantage and this issue was important for gathering the participants and approaching different groups.

Community Mobilization

The civic educators first established contact with influential people, elders, Mullahs CDCs, Malik, Khan & other influenced community representatives and asked them to provide information in terms of conducting session. They had enough information and were able to provide relevant information for the civic educators about existence of Shuras, civil society entities and any other community representatives who could provide information in this regard. The civic educators after analyzing the situation, decided for more discussions about gathering participants.

Most of the sessions were conducting in the district level and villagers were busy with their routine activities so time for conducting sessions are important and civic educators asked the influential people to advise them in this regard. The civic educators also met Mullahs and ask them for cooperation in terms of conducting session and gathering the participants. Mullahs are very important elements because most of the sessions were supposed to be conducted in the Mosques especially after prayers and they have influence on the community and people follow their comments and advises.

Some other training institutions also existed in the targeted areas (like, English Courses, Weaving Centres, Literacy courses, Tailoring courses and etc). The civic educators have been using these institutions for mobilizing the community to attend the sessions.

Overall approach of civic educators were through the influential people, Shuras members, community representatives, local authorities, elders and the existing civil society entities union were able to introduce members of the Shuras and also asked the individuals to participate in the civic education sessions. It is worth mentioning that Mullahs were used as multipliers to encourage the community for attending in the sessions.

A session was planned to be conducted in a mosque. Whenever we started our session the Mullah was very rude and his reaction was negative. Anyhow the session started and the messages were conveyed to the participants. At the end the Mullah discussed about peace in different methods and used some verses of Holly Quran in this regard. He realized that our sessions were not against Islam and Islamic opinion. His view changed and termed the civic educators as peace angels.

Civic educators were dressed locally and spoke according the knowledge of the community. This method was another tool for mobilizing the community and used by civic educators in this project.

Civic Education Sessions

Contract of ACSFo with CPI STEP was based on activity (the payment was released according the conducted sessions). We had to accomplish 3752 sessions during the 7 months of operation on the ground and meet 93800 beneficiaries. Some of the partner organizations conducted more sessions and met more beneficiaries. During the implementation it was realized that the interest of the community has increased and the number of participants reported was more than what was expected. Finally we could meet 125,994 individuals including men and women.

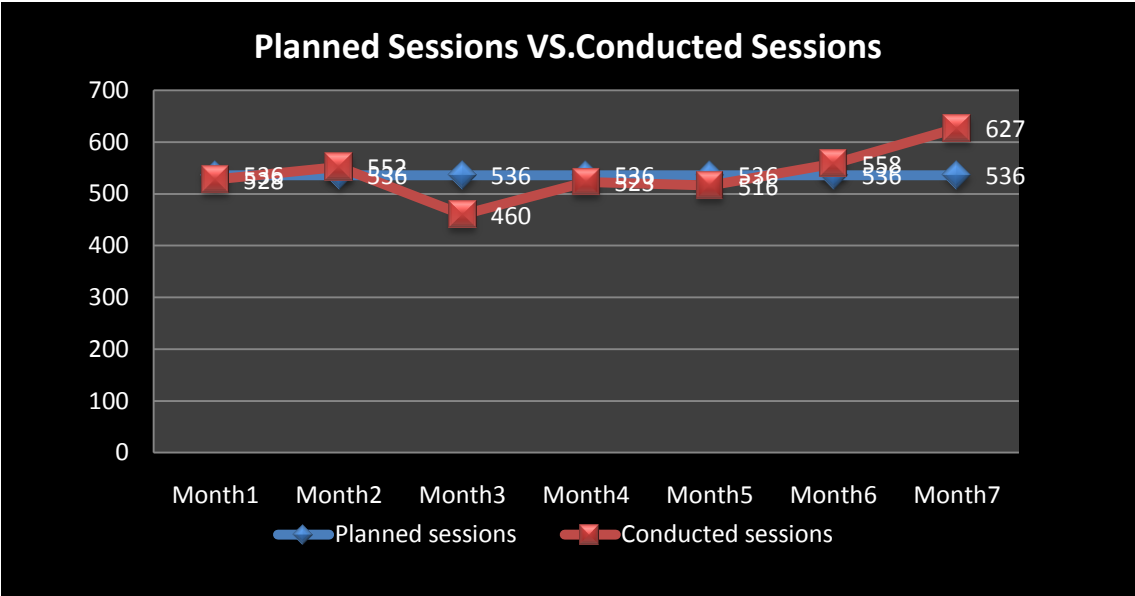


Figure.4 Planned and conducted session

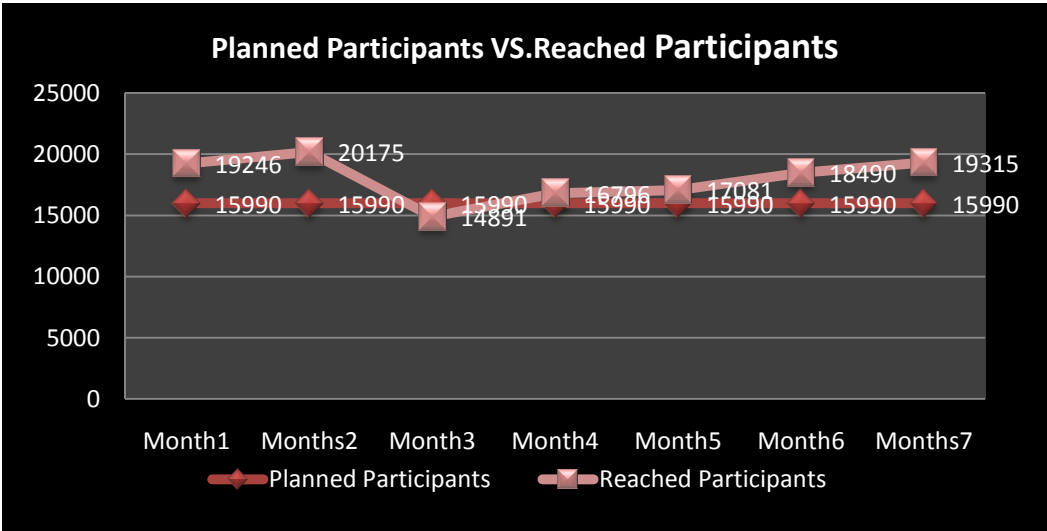


Figure.5 Planned and Reached participants

Kabul

Most of the sessions were conducted in Kabul districts and Nahias. Kabul is the most populated province comparing with other provinces under the project coverage. All the districts which were planned were covered and there was no change in the number of districts. Some minor changes could be observed in the village number. These changes occurred in the city districts or Nahias. There is no precise list of villages in hand. First CSOs planned those villages which were in the list of district department, during the practical operation it was understood that some villages are not in the list which was prepared at the beginning of the operation.

Some security concerns were reported in some villages of Kabul city. Khak-e-Jabar, Charisab and Sorobi were insecure sometimes, but the civic education process was not postponed, the civic educators were from the areas and they could manage to conduct the session in different methods. The people of all 14 districts and 18 Nahias of Kabul province were benefited from civic education sessions in their areas.

Parwan

The civic education activity was smoothly implemented in all 10 districts of Parwan province. First all the districts of this province were planned and finally all of them were covered. There was no serious security concern in Parwan province during the civic education in the area. Three districts of Parwan province are located in remote area and sometimes travelling in those districts were difficult, Surkhparsa, Shaikhali and Seyagird (Ghorband) are the districts which are a little bit remote and sometimes security concerns also existed there.. Anyhow the sessions were conducted according to the work plan and there was no change in terms of districts and villages. .

Maidan Wardak

Only four districts of Maidan Wardak namely Behsud I, Behsud II, Chak Wardak and DaiMirdad were planned. Related CSOs in Maidan Wardak were asked to provide us information about security in their area for planning the civic education programme. The CSOs reported that only the above mentioned districts are safe and suitable for running the STEP project. The above mentioned districts were covered, but ACSFo could not monitor the sessions in Chack and DaiMirdad due to the security reasons. The CSO who conducted the session in the two mentioned districts are originally from the area and could managed to conduct sessions in different methods. The civic educator met the participants in their houses and passed the messages to them. It is worth mentioning that the women also have been covered.

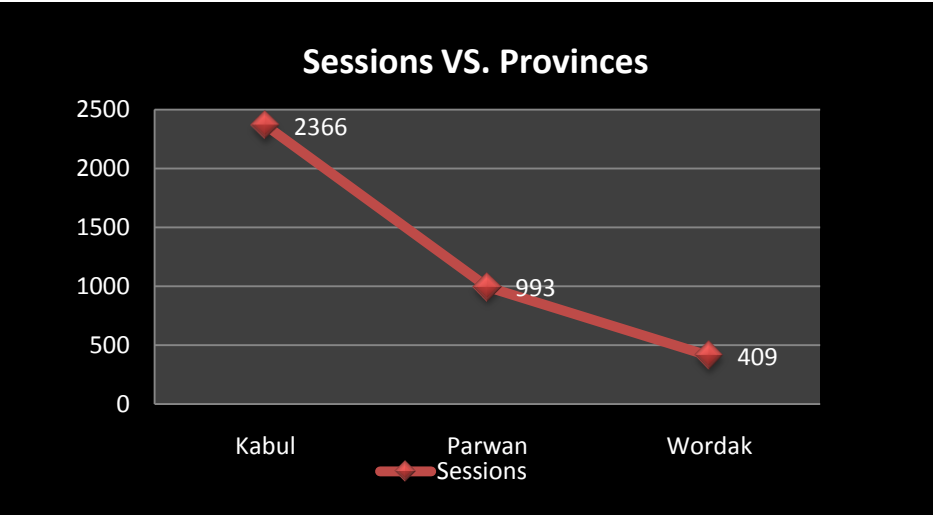


Figure.6 Conducted sessions per province

Cascaded Trainings

ACSFo project manager with other five colleagues attended a five-day TOT workshop which was organized by CPI STEP office. This workshop was organized on 25 April 2009. The agenda was about the four main topics (Democracy, Citizen, public outreach and Good Governance). The workshop was conducted in the CPI office by the most qualified and experienced trainers. Practical

and useful methodologies were used during the sessions. On the last day practical sessions were conducted by participants and this session was very useful and participants learnt interesting and related methodologies. This workshop was replicated in the ACSFo office and all civic educators were invited in this workshop. After this workshop the actual operation started in all 28 districts and 18 Nahias.

On 11 May 2009 a 4-day TOT workshop was held at ACSFo conference room in Kabul. The 40 civic educators (14 women and 26 men) from 13 Partner NGOs participated in this workshop. The following topics have been discussed during the workshop:

- What is training?
- Who is a trainer?
- Training skills
- The training methodology
- What is plan?
- The programme action plan
- Public outreach and civic education
- Government
- Citizen
- Democracy
- Democratic Government

Attractive sessions were conducted during this workshop and civic educators were benefited and they got ready to conduct the awareness raising sessions in the field. The workshop was positively evaluated by participants and they agreed to transfer the knowledge which they learnt in the workshop to the community in their related districts and villages.

On 22 July 2009 2-day refresher workshop was conducted at ACSFo conference room in Kabul. 41 civic educators (12 women and 29 men) from 13 Partner NGOs participated in this workshop. This workshop was the replica of the workshop which the core staff of STEP project attended in the CPI STEP office.

The following topics were discussed during the workshop:

- Challenges and opportunities
- Lesson learnt from the field
- Election cycle and its importance.
- Election education
- Principle of election and criteria for democratic and fair election process
- Democracy, Good governance and goal of developing key messages
- Access to election processes
- Considering the people with disability and minorities
- Explaining The Electoral Complaint Commission and role of observers
- Conducting practical training sessions
- Evaluation and distribution of certificates for participants

This training workshop was evaluated positively by participants and they agreed to convey these messages to the beneficiaries during the sessions. The civic educators had nice discussion about the challenges and opportunity in their areas. At the end of the session most of the participants seemed happy because they had learned the methods to cope with challenges. . One of the participants during the interview stating his finding from the session said, “to be honest right now I understood that government is composed of three branches, while I have attended many sessions but the way that I understood the lessons here was quiet good and useful”



Figure 2 CSOs directors meeting in ACSFo.



Figure 1 Civic educators training in ACSFo.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

ACSFo is running I-PACS project for long time, ACSFo played important role for capacity building of CSOs in the three provinces of Kabul, Maidan Wardak and Parwan. 20 CSOs are organized in I-PACS networking system. ACSFo was asked to use the I-PACS network system in the STEP project in the three mentioned provinces. All I-PACS partners were invited in a meeting and STEP project activity was shared with them. For finalizing the list of CSO for STEP project many meetings were conducted with them and the following criteria were seriously considered:

- 1- Accessibility to the area
- 2- Experiences of training
- 3- Having enough personnel resources

Based on the above criteria the mentioned 13 CSOs were selected for running the STEP project. It is worth mentioning that I-PACS manager provided enough information in this regard and played a vital role in selecting the CSOs in the related areas.

CSOs attended the coordination meetings. Secondly the civic educators were permanent staff of CSOs and they were trained under this program .

Lessons Learnt

STEP project was interesting and relevant to the present situation of Afghanistan. Raising awareness is a long term process and the results of the project cannot be observed in short run, anyhow the followings are lessons which we learnt during our operation in the different districts:

- Working in the insecure areas is possible only if we use the local methodologies. ACSFo conducted civic education sessions in Chack and Day Mirdad by assigning the civic educators from the area in different styles. The civic educators were showing that they are teaching the Islamic subject and during the discussion they could pass the electoral messages to the participants.
- We have learnt that the civic educators should be well-educated; he/she should have general information especially about the existing political and social situation of the country.
- Most of the civic educators were asked questions about election and election process rather than democracy and responsibility of elected representatives.
- We have learnt that using audiovisual tools are very useful and the participants can be benefited better in comparison with reading materials. The flipchart was useful but received criticism about the images. Some of the participants believed that most of the Afghan nationality faces were not observed in the images.

- We have learnt that community mobilization is easier through existing Shura rather than influential people in the community. Influential people and Mullahs are encouraging the civic educators to cover the other influential and those people who are powerful and wealthy, but Shuras are emphasizing to the educated and younger generation.
- We have learnt about vulnerable categories in the community and it was understood that women are the most vulnerable and existing traditions are the main obstacles for their development.
- Some NGOs have conducted assessment surveys but they did not continue their activities in the targeted areas. We have learnt that communities have lost their trust with them.

Challenges

1. The first challenge was security. We have received many intimidation reports from Kabul districts (Khak-e-Jabar, Sorobi, Charasiab and Musaiee) sometimes this issue hammered our operation but the civic educators were able to continue their activities. The civic educators established contact with most reliable and influential people and made the situation ready for conducting sessions. Sometimes the participants were reluctant to attend the sessions due to security reason..
2. Existence of local traditions was another important challenge..There were some narrow-minded people who indirectly created obstacles for the civic education process. Example: According to the report a Mullah in district 15 of Kabul city spread propaganda against civic education process, he induced the youth not to attend the civic education sessions. We had a well-educated civic educator in this district and he finally could convince the community that civic education is not against Islam and Islamic views. Traditions are serious issue in terms of cultural activity, such kind of obstacles have been created in different districts but were solved out.
3. Sometimes the civic education process was victim of party competition in the community. During the election most of the parties were trying to use the civic education to their benefit and misuse the process. Based on the report from Qarabagh two parties were in competition and they had bad fighting between each other and finally one person got injured. After this fighting our civic educators were in danger because the parties spread propaganda against the civic education process.
4. Sometimes harvest is another challenge for us. Most of the villagers are not interested to attend the sessions during the harvest time.
5. Most of the people are reluctant to be interviewed and they are not trusting the government policy and performance

Financial Management and accomplishments

ACSFo signed the contract with CPI STEP for implementing the STEP project on the ground. Meanwhile ACSFo sub-contracted 13 CSO partners. All related and necessary conditions were mentioned in the contract of CSOs. Contract of ACSFo with CPI STEP was based on achievement. Rate of each session in the provinces were specified and the same rates were used in the sub-contract with CSOs. Rate for conducting a session in Kabul and Parwan districts was \$25, while rate for conducting a session in the Kabul city (Nahias) was \$20. The rate in the four districts of Maidan Wardak was \$30.

CSOs submitted their weekly reports regularly and their reports were incorporated and submitted to CPI STEP office. Copy of the report was shared with finance section and this section prepared monthly payment of the CSOs according the report from STEP project team. Finance department prepared monthly payment of each CSO and transferred to their account. Every CSO was asked to open a bank account in this regard, some of them still have not account and they received their payments in cash or

open cheques. Still the final payment of HAM and KCSA are pending for not fulfilling their responsibilities. This issue will be shared with the CPI STEP colleagues at the first coming coordination meeting and decision will be taken in this regard.

Financial Overview

All expenditures of the STEP project were charged in the related budget lines. There was no change in the budget line of the project. Budget sheet of the project was prepared according to the needs of the project so there was no need for amendment in this regard. ACSFo recruited three monitoring officers instead of two and the budget has not been changed.

STEP project was designed for 8 months public outreach, but one month was spent in the set up of the process and the operation's duration was reduced to 7 months.

Lessons Learnt

We have learnt the following lessons from this project:

1. ACSFo and particularly its finance section improved their knowledge about USAID financial system.
2. STEP project team members learnt that the partner organizations are not allowed to spend from one budget line to the other, where the USAID system implementers are able to change 10% of budget lines.
3. Some expenditure was not allocated in the budget line. : Transportation cost of project team during their project was not considered in the budget sheet. We have learnt that finance section should conduct a participatory session with the related project staff for preparing the budget sheet.

Challenges

The STEP project budget system was smoothly going on and there was no serious challenge in this regards

Recommendations

Public Outreach

1. We have learnt that conducting session by using audiovisual tools are more useful than lecture and other tools. Most of the people are not well-educated and not able to gain from lectures.
2. We have learnt from 2009 civic education process that individuals are more interesting to election rather than other topics. We support this idea and also we believe that more focus to this topic is useful.

Community Mobilization

1. We recommend that community mobilization through Shuras is more useful with compare to Mullahs, influential and other people. Because Shura members are representing different categories of the community and they provide reliable information about the community and encourages the civic educators to focus more on youth than other categories of the community.
2. We have to provide authorization letter to the district managers for community mobilization, we recommend that copy of this letter to be sent to the most influential people and Shuras of the district and in the letter to be mentioned that Shura and other influential people should support the civic education process in their related areas.

Role of CSOs

All CSOs in the STEP project have been selected according their capability and experiences in the related districts. Each CSO was asked to submit their monthly work plan and perform their responsibilities accordingly. Based on the reports and the database which was developed in this regard some CSOs have conducted more sessions comparing with their work plans but some others have not. ACSFo STEP team decided to stop the final payment of those CSO who have not completed more than 14 sessions. 14 sessions is the number of sessions which were to be conducted per district per month. Based on this decision, the payment of

two CSOs i.e. HAM and KCSF have been pending. This issue will be raised in the coming first coordination meeting and follow the decision thereafter.

Still we have not received any negative feedback about the CSOs and we recommend them for 2010 project as well. The only concern is about the payment of the two mentioned CSOs which is expected to be sorted out in the first coordination meeting.

Youth Activities

1. We recommend some special activity for youth such sports, cultural debates among them.
2. More coverage in the STEP work plan
3. Provide support for youth forum and unions.
4. Provide special capacity building programmes for youth such as computer courses, English training and etc

Media Activities

- Conducting round tables for beneficiaries. Providing posters for different occasions. Providing PSA (Public services announce). Providing dramas, interviews.

Outreaching Women

1. We recommend at least one female coordinator to each organization.
2. Providing special session on women rights.
3. Covering more women in the outreach programme.
4. Proving incentive for women participants (some booklet about women activity, small grant for women).
5. Skill training for women such as tailoring and sewing and embroidery.

Cascaded Trainings

1. More cascade trainings for participants,
2. We recommend that one or two qualified trainers from outside to be in the cascade trainings.
3. We recommend that the handouts which are supposed to be distributed for the participant to be sent in advance for them.

Monitoring & Evaluation

1. It is recommended that joint monitoring mission to be conducted in the field between ACSFo and CPI STEP monitors.
2. It is recommended that CPI STEP provide monitoring and evaluation training manuals
3. It is recommended that more M&E trainings are required for monitors in order to conduct proper and practical monitoring missions to the area.
4. It is recommended that the new developed monitoring form, the one which is supposed to be used for interview of the participant to be reviewed and revised and improved. Based on recommendation from our monitoring officers it complicated.
5. We recommend for preparing a monitoring database for consolidating of the monitoring forms.