

Project Report

Organization Name: Afghan Women's Network

Thematic Program: Advocacy

Project Title: Changing the Base – Legal Framework Affecting Women”

Reporting Period: 1 Jan 2012 to 30 mar2012



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Description of the location and situation:

Afghanistan More than two decades of violent conflict, resulting in high levels of poverty, lawlessness and violence, have severely affected the lives of Afghan women. Further compounded by constraining cultural practices, the opportunities for Afghan women to take active part in public life are limited, making women victims of social and economic exclusion.

The government of Afghanistan and the international community has placed initiatives promoting gender equality and efforts to expand women's opportunities high on their agenda. Afghanistan ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2003. The 2003 Constitution granted equal rights to women and required that a minimum of 25% of seats in the Afghan National Assembly be held by women.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs was established in 2003, with Departments of Women's Affairs created at the provincial level. Also, a National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan was launched in 2005, setting out goals to be implemented by 2010. In addition, gender equality and women's rights are recognized as critical issues in the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Afghanistan is a war torn country that has suffered damage to all aspects of society. Today Afghan women are too often a neglected and overlooked resource for reducing violence, combating extremism, and promoting social and economic revitalization. They are the most disadvantaged citizens in the country—and among the neediest in the world—suffering disproportionately from inadequate health, education, and social services, as well as insufficient protection of their human and constitutional rights. Nine years after the fall of the Taliban, many question whether efforts to advance the status of Afghan women are being lost

The legal department of AWN which started its activities since 2007 is responsible to take measures in order to bring changes at the base level— legal framework affecting women. The areas of working concerned on legal consulting, empowering women by raising legal awareness, conducting programs to increase awareness of rules and laws and to build up rich laws by brainstorming with civil societies and governmental organizations

AWN through the implementation of this project is working on two major areas amendment of two laws (Mediator regulation and regulation to Support vulnerable family and person) meanwhile raising awareness on Elimination violence against women Law (EVAW) through organizing four workshops and publishing posters.

Beneficiaries:

The project over all targeted the ratio of 40% women and 60% men. Indirect beneficiaries were over all People of Afghanistan through amendment of two laws and Media awareness campaign and direct beneficiaries were Women, Parliament members', students, teachers, NGO

workers, and government employee's awareness sessions of four workshops and overall people of Afghanistan through the amendment of two laws.

Implementation of planned activities:

a. Overall goal

The general goal of the action was to promote women rights and legal protection of Afghan women by amendment of two laws.

By raising legal awareness in civil society organizations and community regarding new amendment law and changes in the legal framework of Afghanistan through four workshops and distribution of 8000 brochures in Kabul province.

Objective achieved:

AWN conducted research study and lobbying for legal changes by focusing on one laws, regulation to support vulnerable family and parson of safe houses and marriage law through professional legal research consultant to find the flaws and loopholes.

During the first quarter period of the project 25% of the objective was achieved by conducting research and advocacy for the amendment regulation to support vulnerable family and parson, developing manual and design posters.

(media complain ??????????????????)

Developed activities:

In the preparatory phase of the project, the project team developed a job description, reviewed the work plan, and created sub activities in order to achieve the project objective. Meanwhile, the main activities carried out during the first quarter of the project included the share the activities of project with lawyer committee, development of a training manual, arrange meeting with Ministry of labour and social affairs and met work and admin department of MOJ , and design posters.

Details of activities:

In the preparatory phase, the AWN reviews the work plan and share with lawyer committee. Also met Minister of labour and social affairs, work and admin department of MOJ and provide their recommendation on how to better protect the rights of women.

The first meeting was an introductory meeting in which the project goal and objective was presented to the member of the lawyer committee by the Program Manager.

The second meeting was with MOJ in admin and work department to join the regulation to support vulnerable family and parson committee.

Also anther meeting was with minister of labour and social affairs to join the regulation to support vulnerable family and parson committee.

We had a manual of VAW but according suggestion of participants pervious workshops we develop manual and add behave of police , prosecutor , Jude with VAW cases .

The law department organized a series of meetings with the lawyer committee in order to highlight, identify the gaps, and provide recommendations based on their finding. In the first meeting, it was suggested by members of lawyer committee to have a indepth look into the regulation to support vulnerable family and parson and review all the articles.

Developing Manual:

One of the components of the project was to develop a comprehensive manual regarding the EVAW law. The project team began work on the manual, while keeping contact with those organizations who are working in the concerned area in order to have their lesson learnt as input in the manual.

The manual consists of four chapters:

1. Chapter One: History of Violence

- 1.1 Violence before Islam
- 1.2 Violence after Islam
- 1.3 Violence in Afghanistan

2. Chapter Two : Definition of Violence

- 2.1 Types of Violence
- 2.2 Physical violence
- 2.3 Sexual abuse
- 2.4 Pscycological abuse

3. Chapter Three : Cause of violence

- 3.1 Effect of Violence
- 3.2 Ways to prevent violence

4. Chapter Four: Elimination Violence against women (EVAW)

Designing and Printing Brochure:

The aim of designing and printing brochures was to spread awareness on the existence of EVAW law and women's rights to beneficiaries and key stakeholders. The legal department decided to design brochure in two languages Dari and Pashto containing the EVAW articles. The brochures were designed in phase one of the project and were published and used in the second phase of the project while conducting workshops. Meanwhile, the published brochures will be distributed through AWN members in over all Afghanistan.

Success study case

AWN believes Advocacy is one of the elements to reach and protect women's rights. In order to help women to meet their ambition and reach to their rights doing advocacy is very important. Considering these points AWN is always attempting to do advocacy and raise the voice of women at the national and international level by organizing different activities such as press conferences, press releases, campaigns, women's gatherings, and meetings.

One of the most important cases which were taken for advocacy by AWN was case of a woman named sahar gul

who was sentenced for murdering her husband although she is said to be innocent because the dead body of her husband has not been found yet. Her punishment by the court was being in jail for 20 years. AWN organized a meeting with president of the Supreme Court and insisted for reviewing her case. AWN members went to the jail with a group of women to meet her and also submitted a document to the parliament and met the Commission of Women Affairs of Parliament regarding this issue. In addition AWN organized a meeting with the Head of Kabul Criminal Appeal Court and he promised to cooperate. Besides AWN submitted a document to the court for allowing a group of women from the Civil Society to participate in Mrs. Arian' court. Also AWN submitted a document to the Ministry of Interior Affairs to search about her husband who is said to be alive. Now the case is in progress.

Description of the implementation methodology:

In order to achieve the project objective a proper work plan was designed consisting of main and sub activities, a job description was developed for each project staff member, and their responsibilities and level of authority were identified. Moreover, in order to ensure the success of project activities, the work plan was frequently reviewed by the program manager and necessary update was conducted. Meanwhile, the project was monitored time by time by the AWN management team.

Financial, Administration, and Reporting:

The legal department submitted its report on monthly basis to the program department in order to provide update on their activities. The program department after reviewing the report provided the necessary feedback. A quarterly report was provided in format recommended by Christian Aid at the end of each three months to Christian Aid.

Challenges:

1. Security was a challenge and a barrier to spread out the activities.
2. To reach women on time in one location was difficult
3. Reach to the high official government authorities is time consuming as it is difficult to properly get their attention and bring major changes.
4. Some difficulties in contacting Ministry of Justice.

